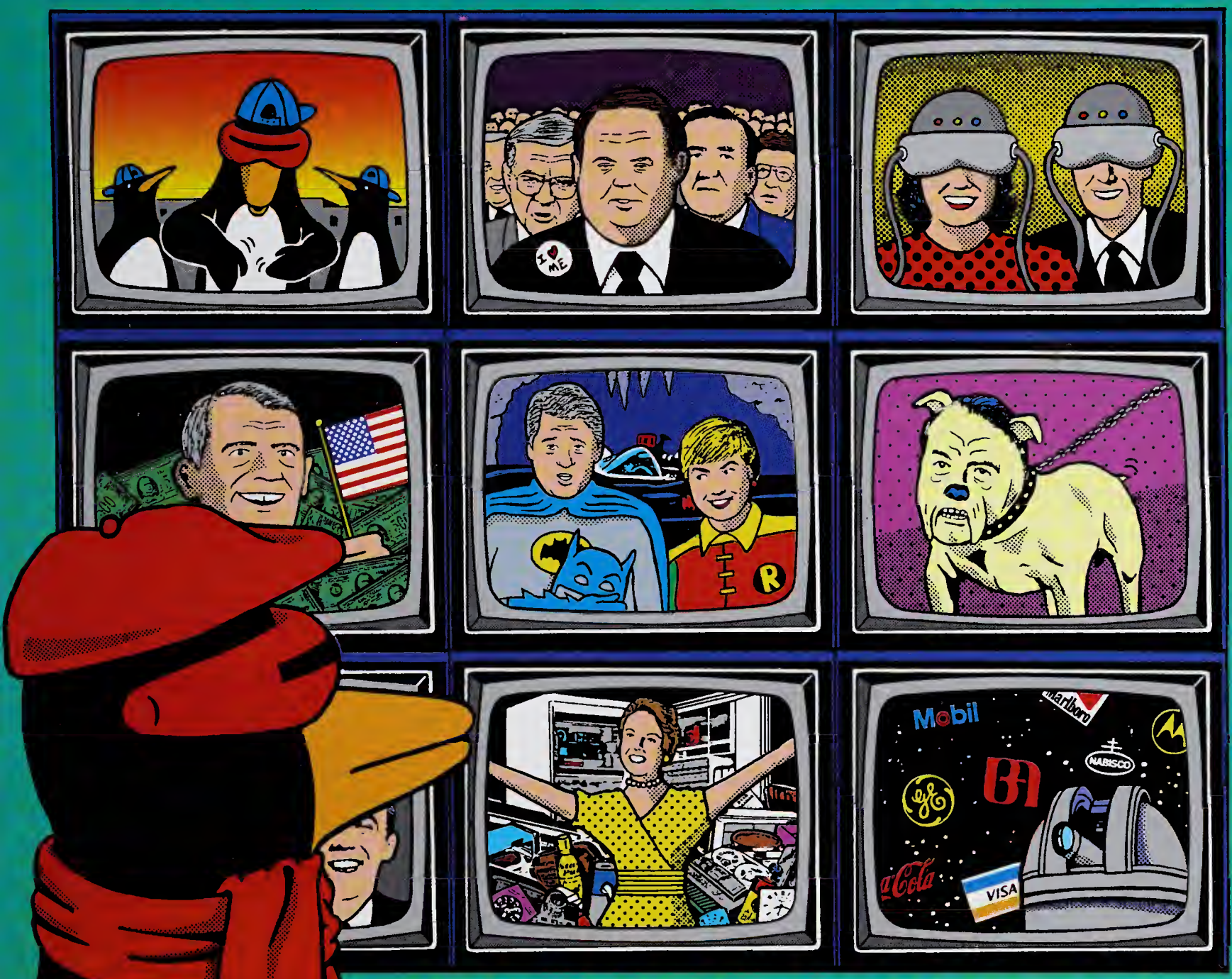
TUNE IN TOMORROW



BY TOM TOMORROW

I WILL NOT QUESTION AUTHORITY
I WILL NOT QUESTION AUTHORITY
I WILL NOT QUESTION AUTHORITY
I WILL NOT QUESTION AUTHORITY
I WILL NOT QUESTION AUTHORITY
WILL NO

TUNE IN TOMORROW

To MARK
Tune in TOMORROW

This book is dedicated to my father,
Larry Leighton Perkins

and to the memory of my mother,
Phyllis Ann Hulvey
1938–1993

The cartoon on page 31 originally ran on the op-ed page of *The New York Times* on the morning after the 1992 election. "Sparky Goes to Paris" (pp. 39–46) initially appeared in the *San Francisco Examiner*, as did the cartoon on pp. 96–97. The cartoons on pp. 100–102 were first published in *Spin* magazine under the title "Tune in Tomorrow." Zippy the Pinhead is © copyright Bill Griffith and appears with permission.

The renditions of Sparky gracing the inside covers were drawn by: S. W. Conser (City Lights Sparky); Buck Dawson (Sparky as Einstein); Steven M. deFrance (Ghenghis Penguin); Martin Fuller (Sparky as Bart Simpson); Adele Hunt (Gargoyle Sparky); Mary Kocher (Whistler's Mother, the Scream, Statue of Liberty); A. Koford (George Washington Sparky); Andrew Mutchler (Sparky vs. Sparky); Lori Puster (Easter Island, Mt. Rushmore Sparky); Steve Silberberg (Elroy Jetson Sparky); Andrew Singer (Charles Bukowski Sparky); George Suggs (Sparky LaForge); Stephen Taylor (Dancin' Sparky); and David Wright (Paul Klee Sparky).

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Design by Dan Perkins

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A newspaper . . . must at all times antagonize the selfish interests of that very class which furnishes the larger part of a newspaper's income. . . . The press in this country is now and has always been so thoroughly dominated by the wealthy few of the country that it cannot be depended upon to give the great mass of the people that correct information concerning political, economical, and social subjects which it is necessary that the mass of people shall have in order that they shall vote and in all ways act in the best way to protect themselves from the brutal force and chicanery of the ruling and employing classes. . . . I have only one principle and that is represented by an effort to make it harder for the rich to grow richer and easier for the poor to keep from growing poorer.

—Edward Wyllis Scripps, founder of
the first modern newspaper chain

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FOREWORD

In November of 1992, American voters decided to exchange a moderate, pro-business Republican president for a moderate, pro-business Democratic president—an event which inexplicably led many to believe that social change of a magnitude not seen since the days of the French Revolution was at hand. Conservatives were aghast, certain that the election of Bill Clinton presaged the end of civilization as they knew it, and the volume of mail I received from such readers increased exponentially—as if this segment of my audience felt that the only way to check the tidal wave of liberalism headed their way was to quickly send off letters of complaint about a small, weekly cartoon whose political impact might accurately be described as, well, nonexistent. Many on the left/liberal side of the spectrum, meanwhile, were convinced that all of America's problems had been solved in one bold stroke, and that social commentators such as myself might as well start looking for other work. "What are you going to do cartoons about *now?*" I was repeatedly asked by those who had mistaken campaign promises for reality, forgetting that basic law of semiotics—*the map is not the territory.*

As I write these words, it's been a little over a year and a half since that election. There have been about-faces and outright betrayals by Clinton on NAFTA, the environment, Lani Guinier, gays in the military, Haitian refugees, China's MFN status—and on and on. His idea of health care reform has been to propose a hopelessly complex plan of "managed competition," the sole advantage of which seems to be that it would leave major insurance companies firmly in control of the system. To my mind, the only question here is whether Clinton is a weenie who just wasn't *able* to stand up to the nation's entrenched corporate interests, or if he was bought and paid for so long ago that he never had any *intention* of standing up to those interests. It will probably come as no surprise to my readers that I tend to suspect the latter.

Despite the nightly Punch-and-Judy sparring matches between Pat Buchanan and Michael Kinsley and their ilk, I believe the real debate in this country has little to do with either of the simplistic extremes represented by, on the one hand, rabid conservatives who despise Clinton despite the fact that he kowtows almost completely to their economic agenda, and, on the other, oblivious liberals who seem utterly disinterested in anything Clinton actually *does* as long as he continues to mouth those vague platitudes about hope and change which leave them feeling all warm and fuzzy inside. Which is not to deny that real and heartfelt differences exist between the two sides, particularly on such hot-button social issues as abortion or gay rights, but rather to argue that such differences often serve to distract attention from the real, underlying debate—which is and always will be between the wealthy and the poor, the haves and the have-nots. It has nothing to do with right or left, conservative or liberal; it has everything to do with up or down, ruling or working class. If you doubt this, consider that it is the official policy of the Federal Reserve—and, therefore, of the United States Government—to maintain an unemployment rate of at least eight million Americans. Let me repeat that: *it is the official policy of the United States Government to maintain an unemployment rate of at least eight million Americans.*

This may be the single most important point necessary to an understanding of the American political system, and it isn't some sort of radical leftist wacko social analysis taken from a xeroxed leaflet handed out at a Save the Whales rally—it's a fact which is discussed quite openly in the business pages of the

mainstream media whenever the Fed deems it necessary to raise interest rates. *The New York Times,* for instance, recently explained matter-of-factly that as unemployment falls near the "danger mark" of only eight million jobless, rates are raised "to discourage borrowing and spending . . . (forcing) business activity, and the economy, to slow down. Fewer jobs are created and unemployment rises." In other words, the laws of supply and demand dictate that as unemployment falls, the cost of labor increases, a situation which, according to conventional economic wisdom, leads inexorably to inflation—since, of course, it's a given that corporations must in turn raise their prices in order to maintain their obscene profit margins. They've got to be able to pay those ten gazillion dollar bonuses to their CEOs after all.

And if you agree with me that the system is fucked up, but believe that Clinton's people are doing all they can to change it, let me bring to your attention the manner in which Presidential economic adviser Laura Tyson recently attempted to reassure inflation-wary investors—by noting that "wage growth has been stagnant over the past year," and that "it is likely that wages will begin to drift upward only gradually." Which *has* to strike anyone who accepts the conventional liberal vs. conservative paradigm as a damned peculiar thing for a Democratic administration to be crowing about. But come on . . . how much change did you honestly expect from a President whose cabinet contains more millionaires than that of his Republican predecessor, and whose earliest appointments included such noted radical reformers as Lloyd Bentsen and Ron Brown? Call me cynical if you will, but remember Ambrose Bierce's definition of a cynic: "A blackguard whose faulty vision sees things as they are, not as they ought to be."

And do me one favor if you ever meet me: no matter who's in the White House, please don't ask me what I'm going to do cartoons about *now* . . .

* * *

A few notes about this book: the preceding musings notwithstanding, politics are not the sole focus of my work, as I hope the following pages will make clear. Most of these cartoons have been culled from my weekly self-syndicated strip, *This Modern World*, but there are some rarities included here as well, such as the story of our opinionated penguin's trip to Paris (not to mention his breakfast with a certain well-known pinhead . . .)

As always, many thanks are due many people (and a few organizations). They include (in no particular order): Keith Kahla, Bill Griffith, Tom Erikson, J.R. Swanson, Steve Rhodes, Gary Frank, Randy Mills, Kimberly Burns, Dave Eggers, Jello Biafra, the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, and Project Censored . . . as well as others I'm sure I'm forgetting. I'd also like to thank the friends who helped out during a year that had some rough patches; and perhaps most importantly, I want to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the editors who choose to run my cartoons in their newspapers each week. Without them, I would be relegated to the status of a tree falling in an empty forest, and this book would most certainly not exist.

—Dan Perkins
("Tom Tomorrow")
San Francisco
June 1994

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

DESPITE ALMOST NO KNOWN INSTANCE OF A GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON EVER TELLING THE ***TRUTH***, JOURNALISTS CONTINUE TO EXHIBIT AN ALMOST TOUCHINGLY NAIVE FAITH IN THE UTTERANCES OF OFFICIAL SOURCES...

EVEN ON IN-DEPTH NEWS PROGRAMS SUCH AS MACNEIL/LEHRER, OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS ARE USUALLY ACCEPTED AT FACE VALUE AND DEBATED ACCORDINGLY...

MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, EVEN THE SUPPOSED VOICES OF ***OPPOSITION*** ON SUCH SHOWS ACCEPT THE BASIC PARAMETERS OF DEBATE AS SET FORTH BY THE GOVERNMENT...

MEANWHILE, AVERAGE CITIZENS WITH ***TRULY*** DISSENTING OPINIONS HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO GATHER TOGETHER IN LARGE NUMBERS AND PRESENT THEIR ARGUMENTS, NO MATTER HOW THOUGHTFUL OR WELL-REASONED, IN THE FORM OF REPETITIVE AND MORONIC ***CHANTS***...

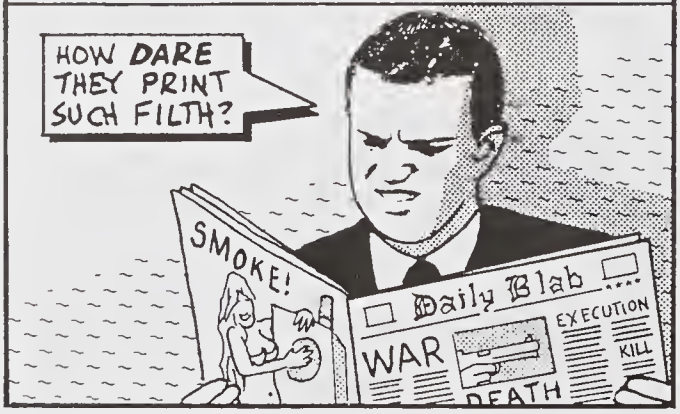
THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

HOW IS SOCIETY DEALING WITH THE MOST SEVERE PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS SINCE THE ***BLACK PLAGUE***? WELL, THE C.D.C. HAS JUST RELEASED A SERIES OF TV SPOTS WHICH, DUE TO POLITICAL PRESSURE, DO NOT MENTION THE WORD "CONDOM"...

SINCE THE FUNDAMENTALIST CHRISTIAN GOAL OF EXTREME SOCIETAL REPRESSION--ALONG THE LINES OF, SAY, ***IRAN*** UNDER ***KHOMEINI***-- IS ***THREATENED*** BY FRANK DISCUSSIONS OF SEXUALITY, THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT HAS FORCED A PUBLIC DEBATE OF THE SEEMINGLY ***OBVIOUS***-- WHETHER YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD BE TAUGHT THAT USING CONDOMS COULD SAVE THEIR ***LIVES***...

AIDS ACTIVISTS MUST DO BATTLE WITH TIMID NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE EDITORS IF, IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, THEY ACTUALLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXISTENCE OF SOMETHING AS ***CONTROVERSIAL*** AS ***HUMAN SEXUALITY***...



ON A ***POSITIVE*** NOTE, AT LEAST ONE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE IS NOT AFRAID TO TACKLE THE ISSUE... AND IS, IN FACT, UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO DEMONSTRATE CONDOM USE TO THE ***INEXPERIENCED***...

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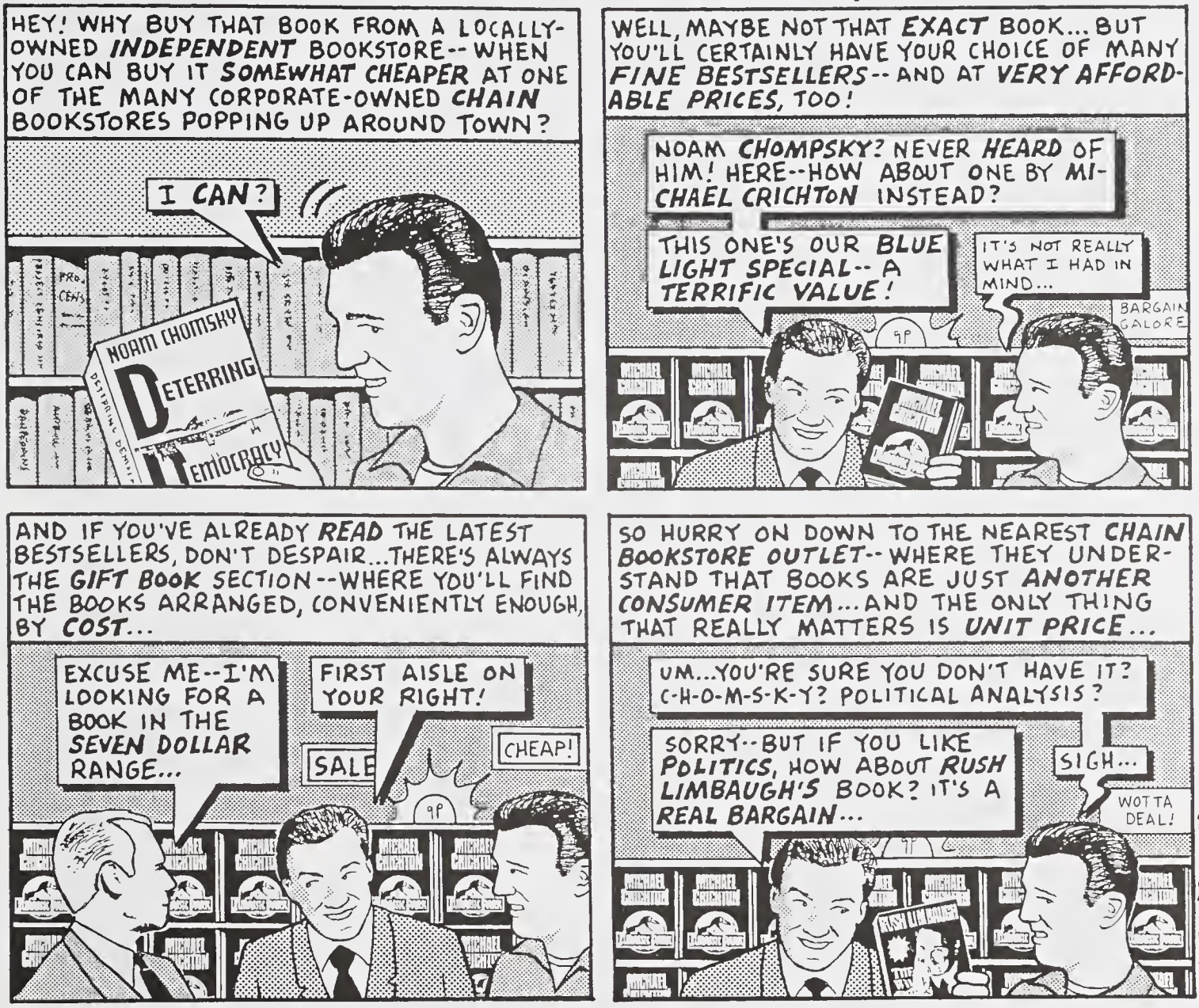

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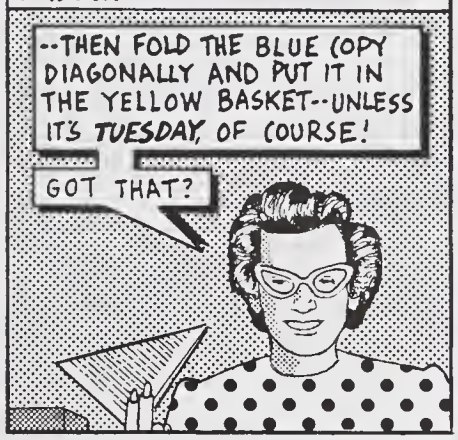
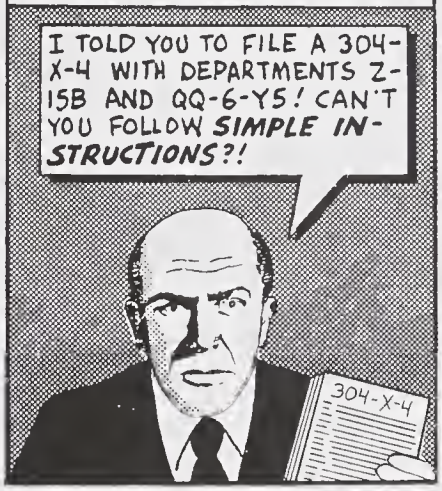
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

IT'S TOM TOMORROW'S *INCOMPLETE GUIDE* TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF *TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT*...

1. THE *OFFICE MANAGER*: GIVES YOU A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF INCOMPREHENSIBLE OFFICE PROCEDURES WHICH YOU WILL BE EXPECTED TO IMMEDIATELY MEMORIZE...

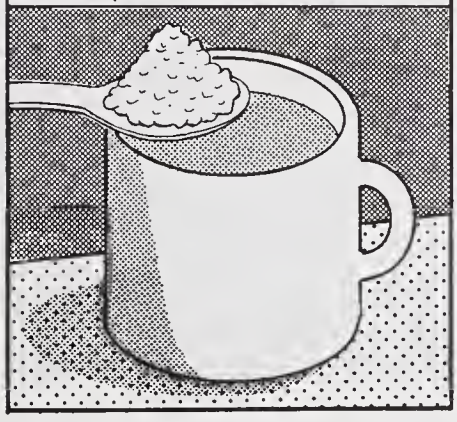


2. THE *CORPORATE EXECUTIVE*: HIGH-STRUNG, SELF-IMPORTANT, BELIEVES TEMPS ARE A SUB-HUMAN LIFE-FORM...



3. THE *WORD-PROCESSING SYSTEM*: YOU CLAIMED TO BE AN EXPERT AT IT TO GET THIS JOB--TIME TO START *BLUFFING*...

4. BAD *OFFICE COFFEE*: WATERY BROWN LIQUID WHICH BEARS LITTLE RESEMBLENCE TO ANY KNOWN BEVERAGE...(DON'T FORGET TO ADD A HEAPING SPOONFUL OF CARCINOGENIC NON-DAIRY "WHITENER"!)



5. HOURS AND HOURS OF *TEDIOUS, MIND-NUMBING LABOR*: ALLEVIATED ONLY BY THE THOUGHT OF ALL THE FREE TIME YOU'LL HAVE WHEN THE ASSIGNMENT ENDS...

6. *FREE TIME*: SPENT WAITING ANXIOUSLY BY THE PHONE FOR THE NEXT JOB AFTER YOU REALIZE YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY THE RENT...

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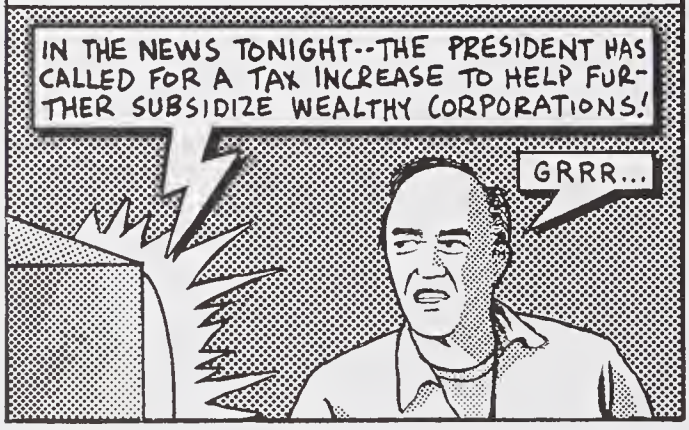
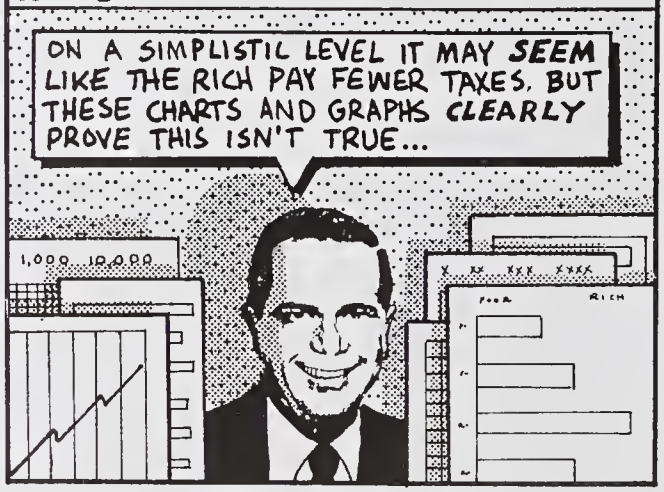
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

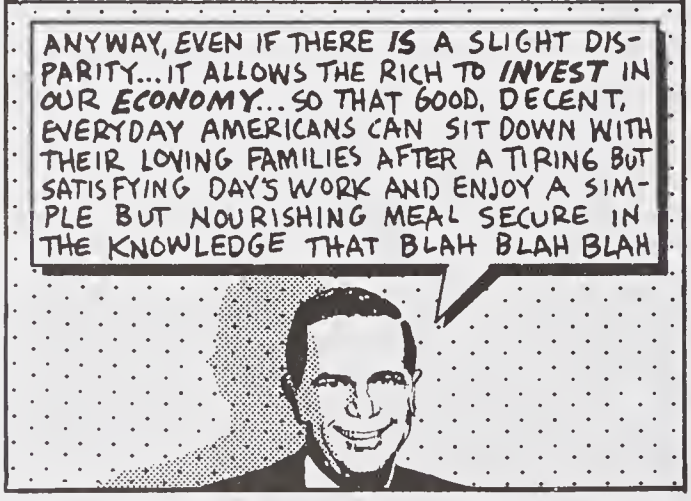
INSIDERS ARE WELL AWARE THAT SINCE 1977, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ALIKE HAVE WORKED TOGETHER TO SHIFT MUCH OF THE TAX BURDEN IN THIS COUNTRY FROM THE ***RICH*** TO THE ***POOR***... UNFORTUNATELY, VOTERS TEND TO BECOME VERY ***UPSET*** BY FACTS LIKE THIS...



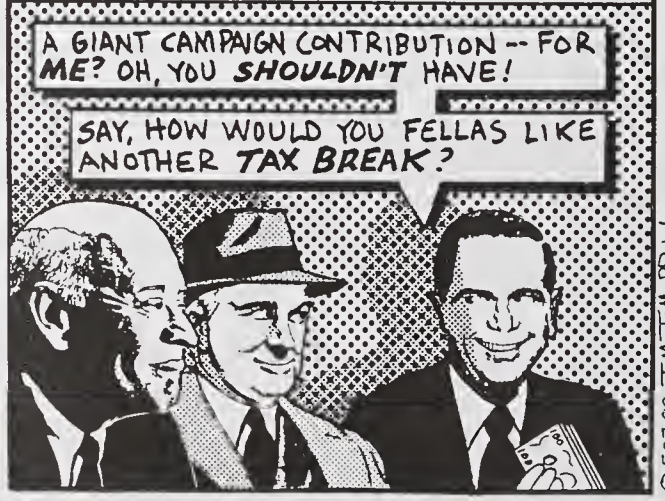
WHEN THEY DO, A POLITICIAN MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO ***OBFUSCATE*** THE ISSUE WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF ***MEANINGLESS STATISTICS***...



TO ERASE ANY LINGERING DOUBTS, HE MUST THEN ***RATIONALIZE*** THE PROBLEM AWAY-- PREFERABLY WITH THE HELP OF SOMEONE LIKE ***PEGGY NOONAN***...



BY THIS TIME, MOST VOTERS WILL HAVE LOST INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT ***COMPLETELY***-- AND THE ***REAL*** BUSINESS OF POLITICS CAN CONTINUE UNFETTERED...



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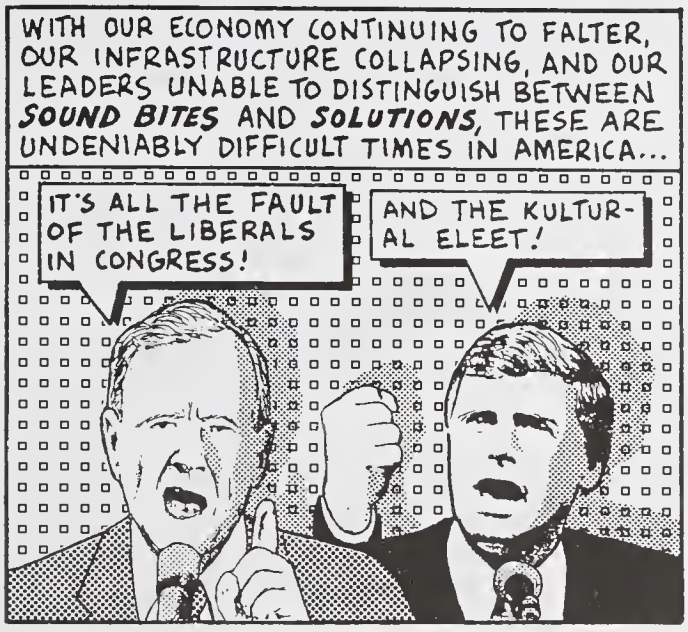

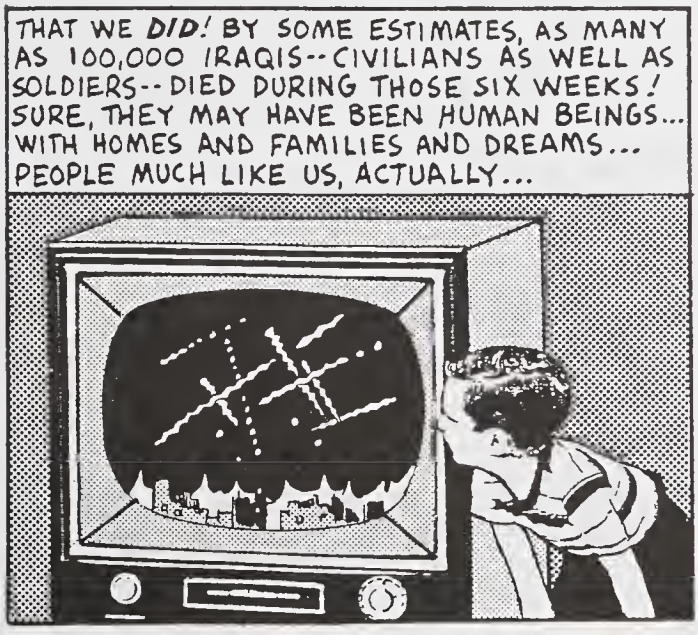

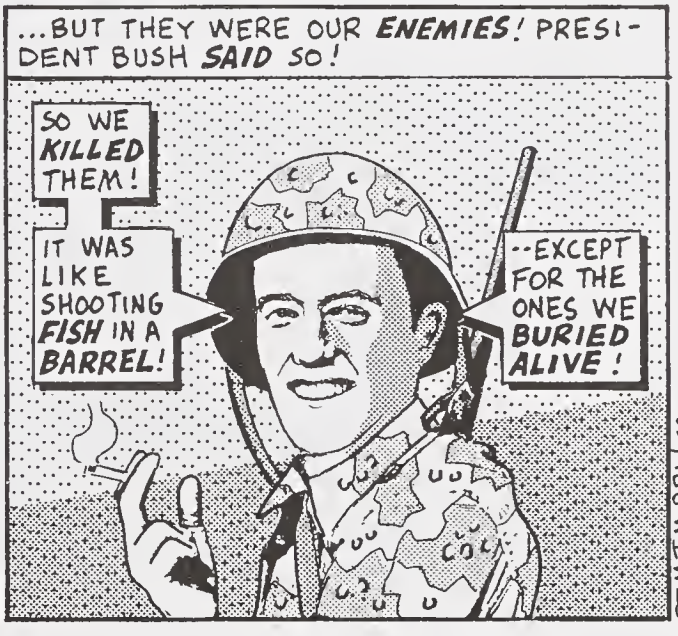

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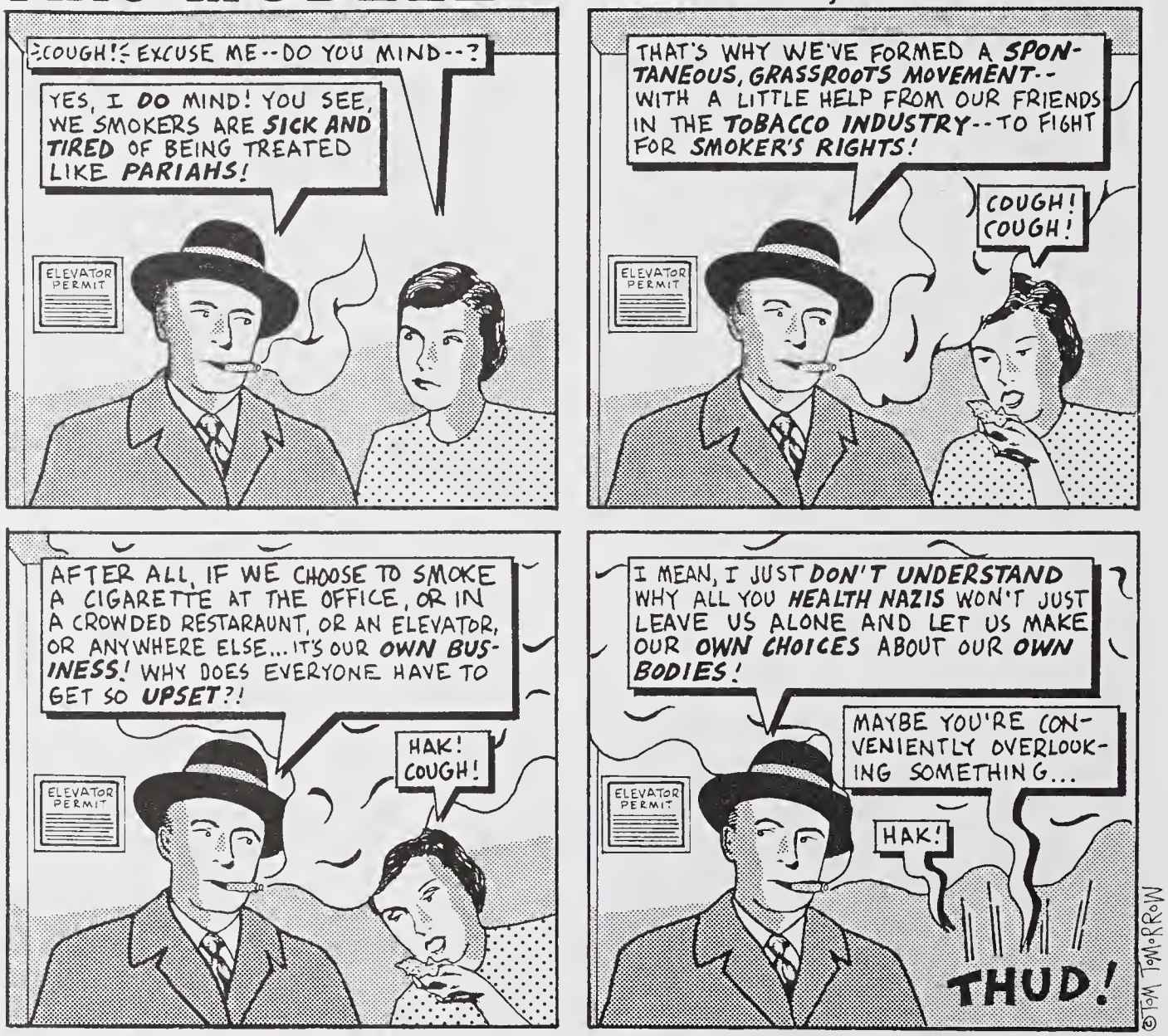

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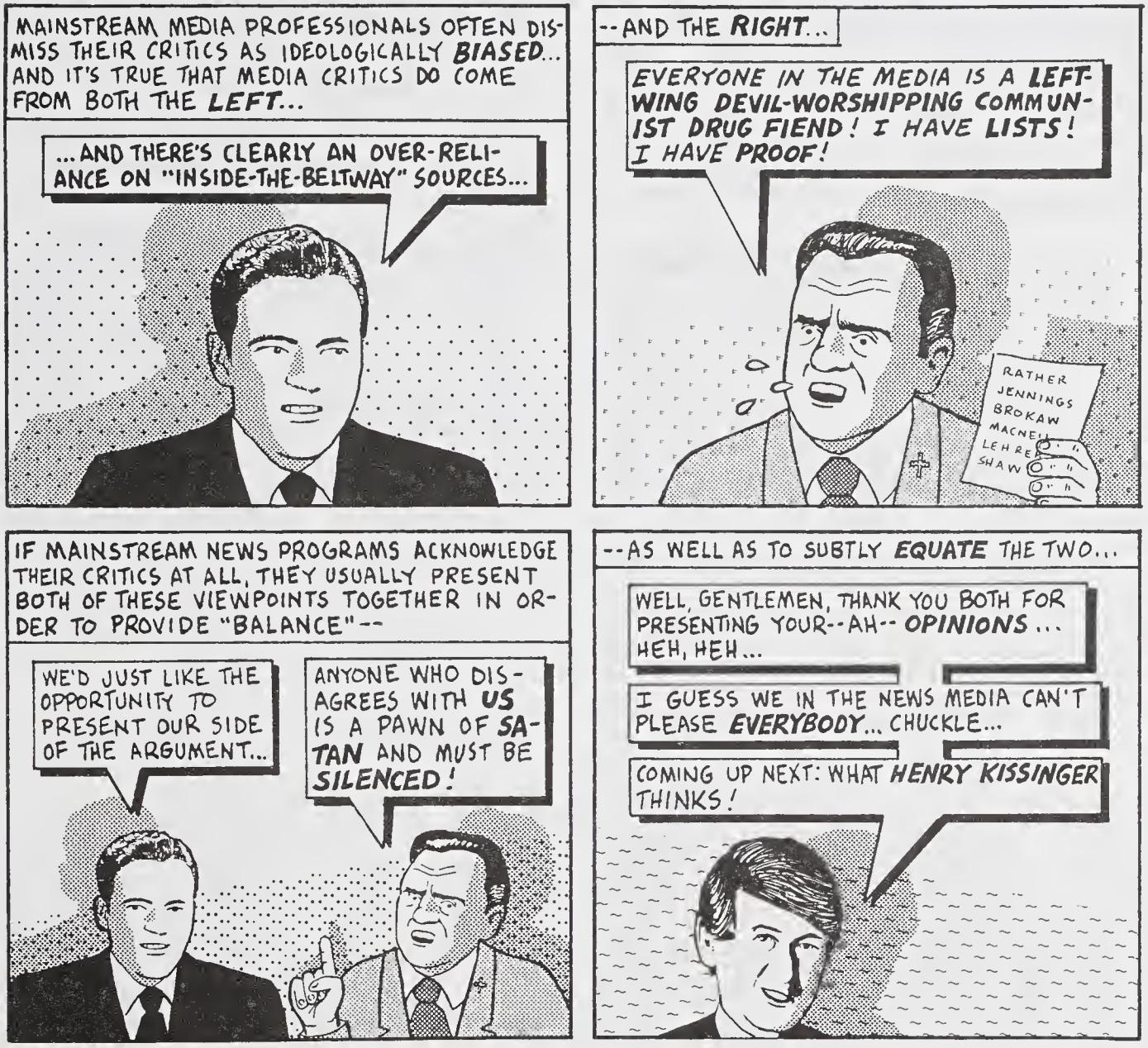

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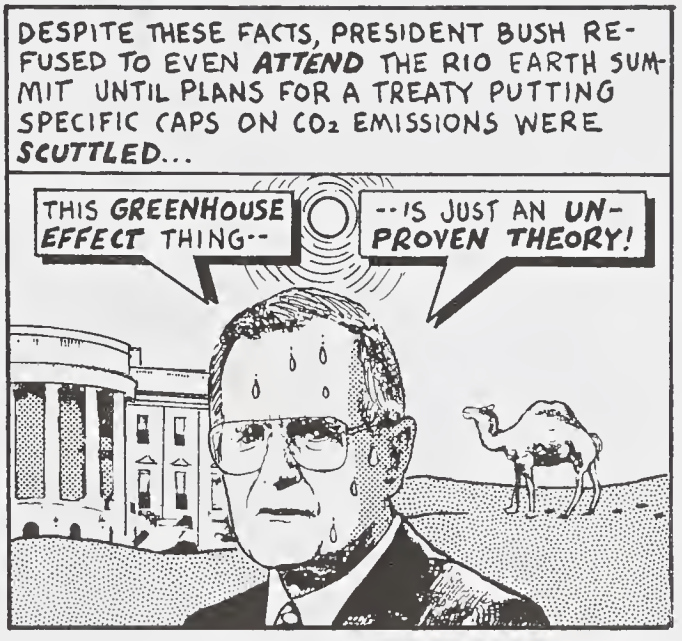

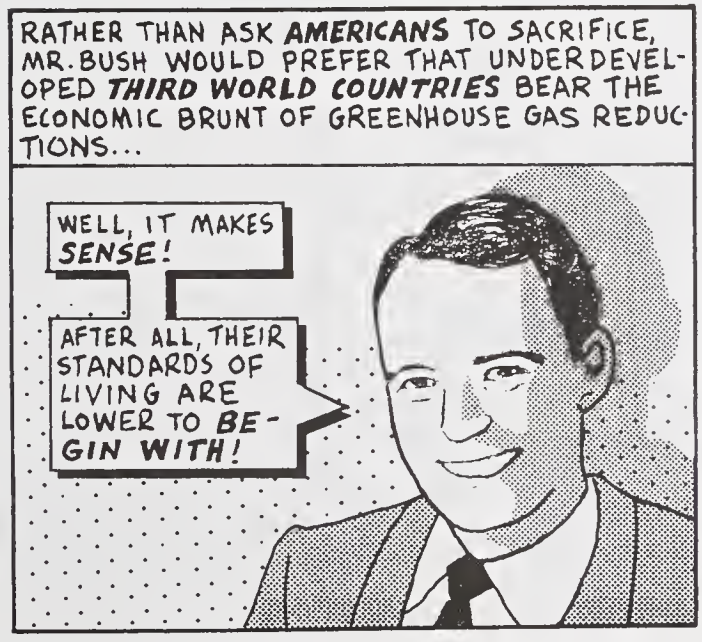

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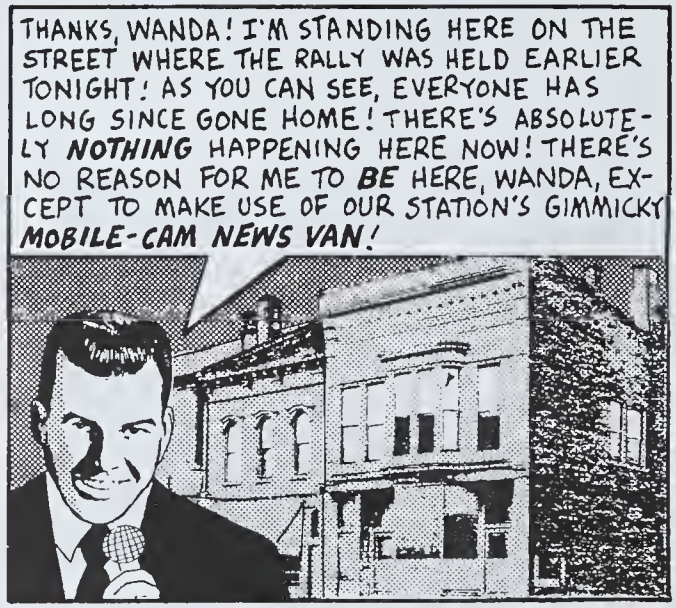
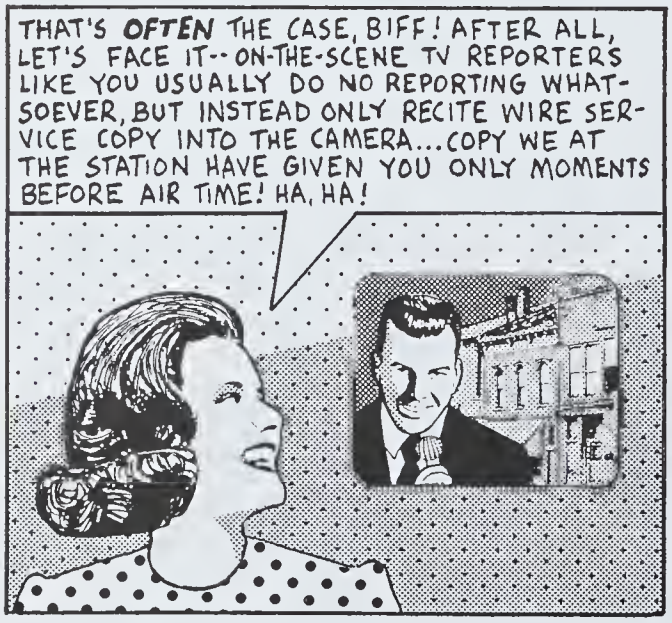
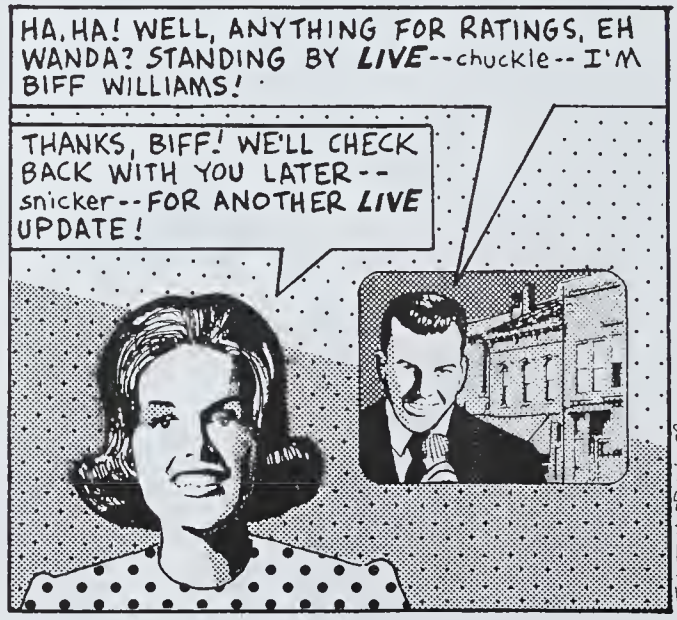






THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

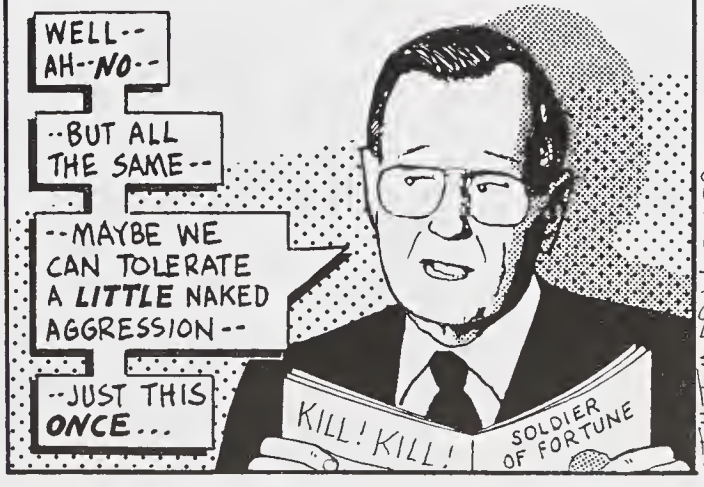
LAST YEAR, THE U.S. RUSHED TO WAR IN ORDER TO DEFEND A MONARCHICAL DICTATORSHIP WHICH, COINCIDENTALLY ENOUGH, ALSO HAPPENED TO BE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF ***OIL***...

...MANY SPOKE OF THE UNITED STATES' NEW ROLE AS THE "WORLD'S POLICEMAN"...

JUST FOR THE SAKE OF ***ARGUMENT***, LET'S BRIEFLY PRETEND THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY DEMONSTRATED SUCH UNWAVERING ETHICAL STANDARDS THAT IT CAN BE ***TRUSTED***--AND IS, IN FACT, MORALLY ***OBLIGED***--TO ACT AS A GLOBAL ***COP*** ON THE ***BEAT***...

IN WHICH CASE, THE U.S. ***MUST*** BE PLANNING TO INTERVENE SOON IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA, TO END THE BLOODY SIEGE OF SARAJEVO AND THE BRUTAL SERBIAN POLICY OF "***ETHNIC CLEANSING***"--

--BECAUSE ***CERTAINLY*** THE "WORLD'S POLICEMAN" ISN'T GOING TO ANSWER ONLY THOSE 9-1-1 CALLS WHICH MIGHT SOMEHOW BE ***PROFITABLE*** ...IS IT?



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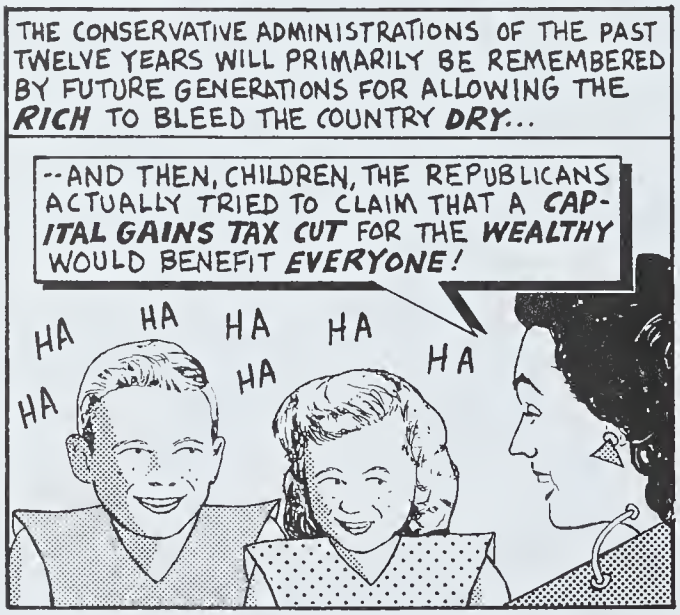

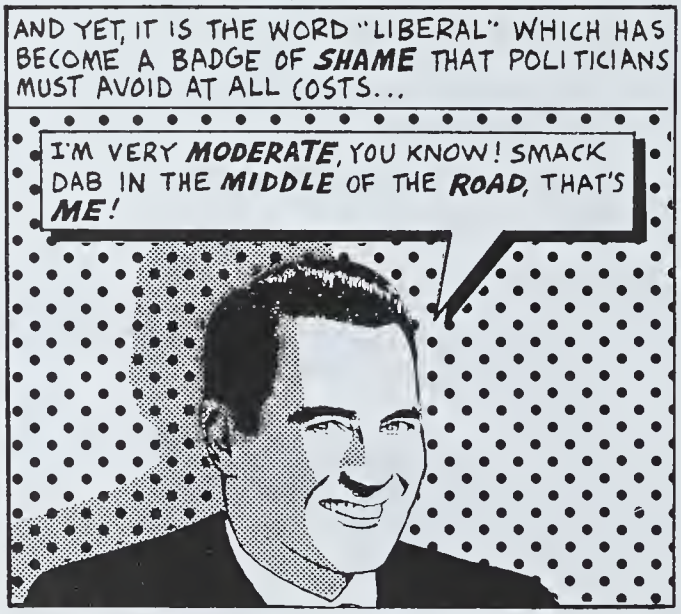

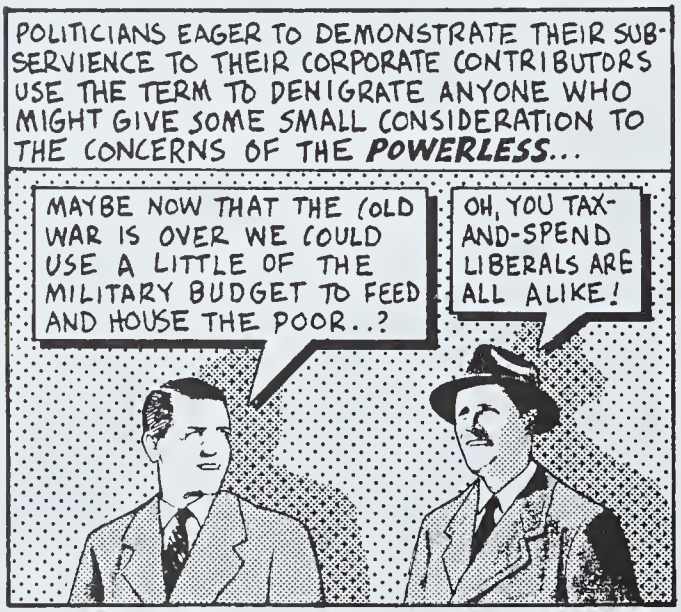

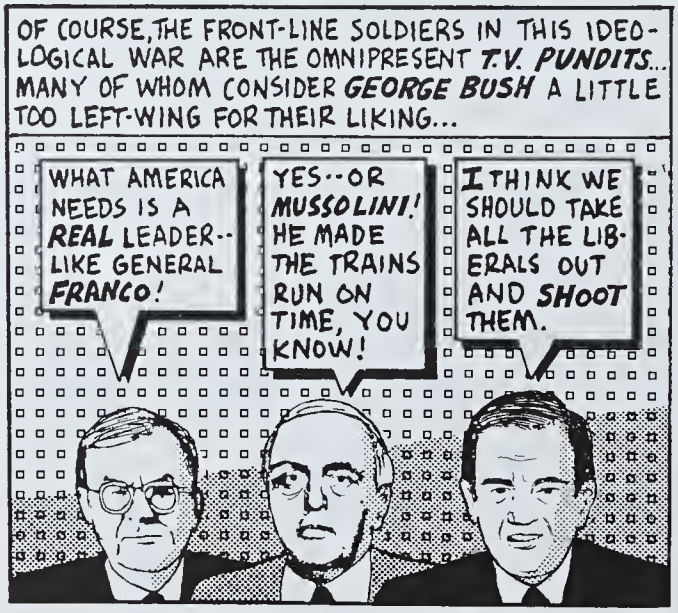

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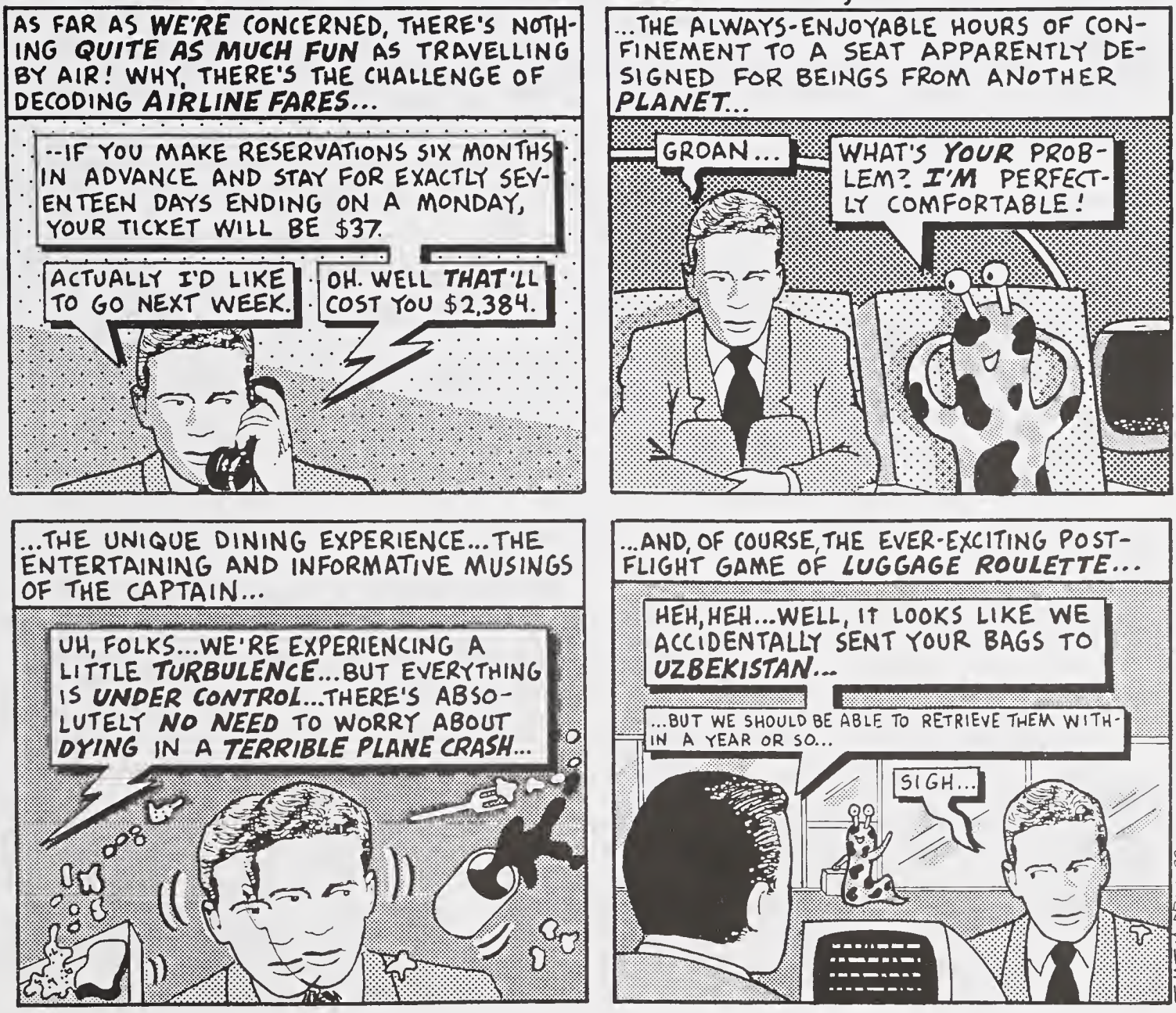
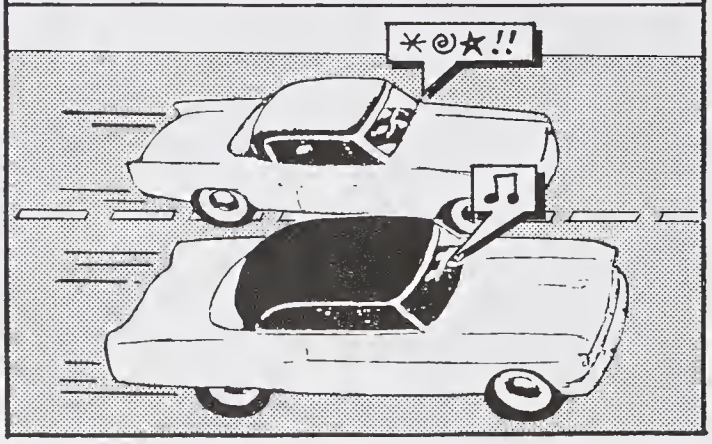
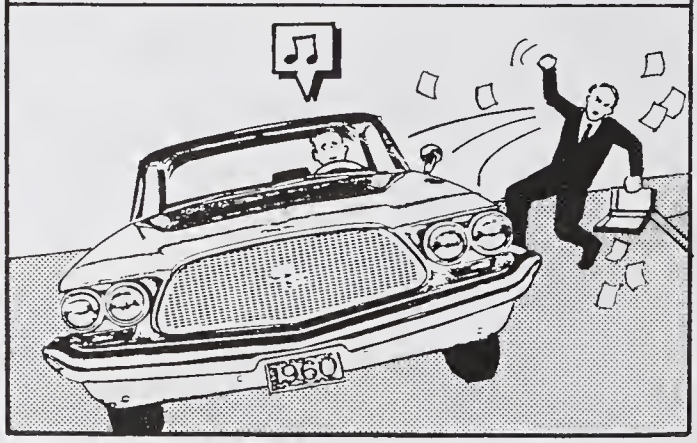


THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

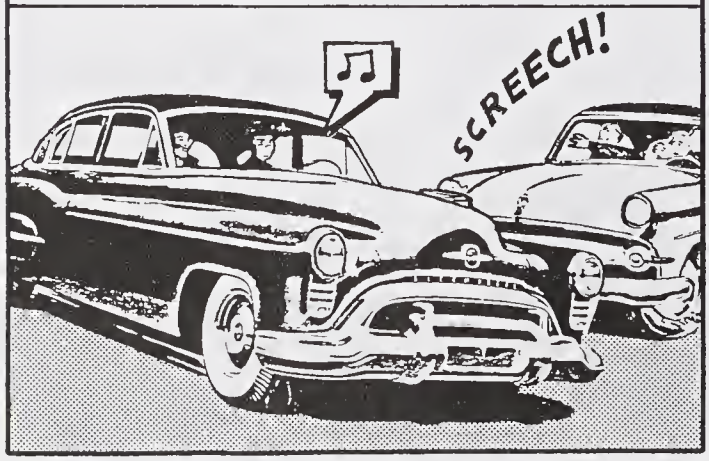
IT'S TOM TOMORROW'S GUIDE TO ***CITY DRIVING!*** ***RULE ONE:*** NEVER, EVER SLOW DOWN TO LET THE DRIVER NEXT TO YOU MERGE INTO YOUR LANE! DO THEY THINK THEY OWN THE ROAD? LET THEM WAIT! YOU'RE AN IMPORTANT PERSON--WITH ***PLACES TO BE!***



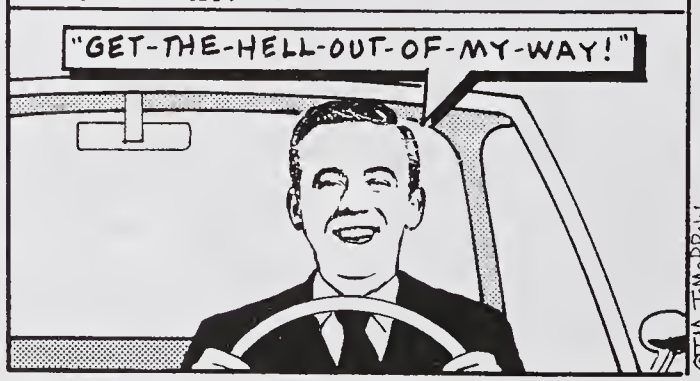
RULE TWO: THE FIRST FIVE SECONDS OF A RED LIGHT ***DON'T COUNT***--SO ***KEEP DRIVING!*** BE COURTEOUS, THOUGH, AND AT LEAST ***TRY*** TO SWERVE AROUND THOSE PEDESTRIANS FOOLISH ENOUGH TO STEP INTO THE CROSSWALK THE MOMENT THE LIGHT CHANGES...



RULE THREE: AT INTERSECTIONS WITH STOP SIGNS, FORGET ALL THOSE RIGHT-OF-WAY RULES YOU LEARNED IN DRIVER'S ED--AND JUST ***GO!*** YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS! YOU'RE IN A ***HURRY!***



RULE FOUR: FINALLY, ALWAYS REMEMBER--***YOU*** ARE THE ONLY PERSON THAT MATTERS! ALL THOSE OTHER DRIVERS AND PEDESTRIANS SHOULD BE VIEWED AS NOTHING MORE THAN ***IRRITATING OBSTACLES!*** SO TURN UP YOUR RADIO ***REALLY LOUD*** AND KEEP REPEATING THE ***MANTRA*** OF THE SOLIPSISTIC ***CITY DRIVER...***



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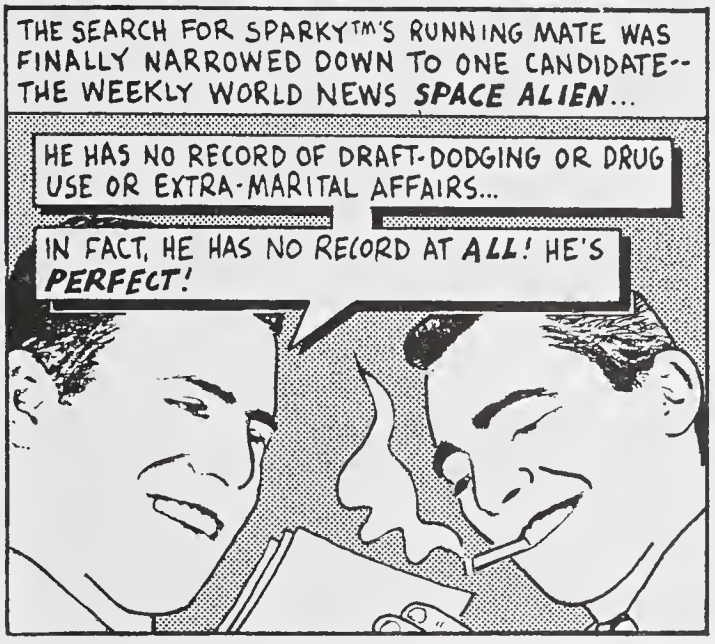

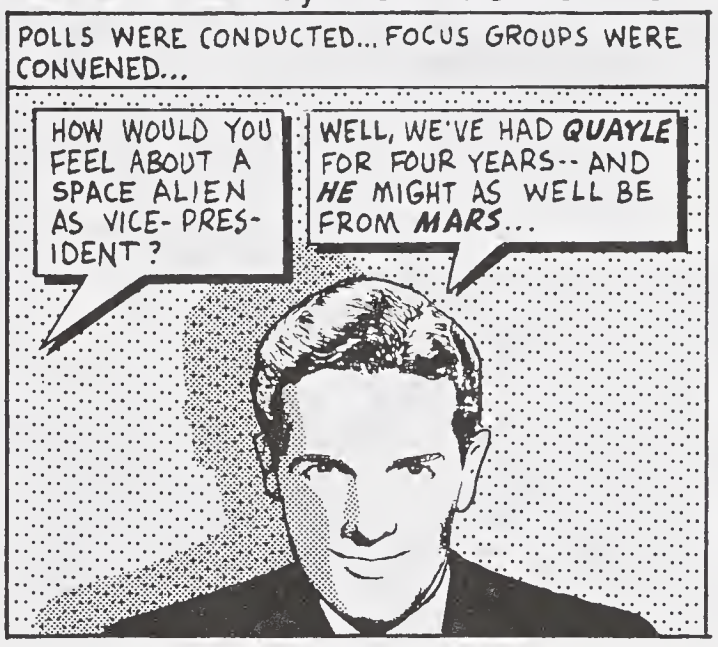

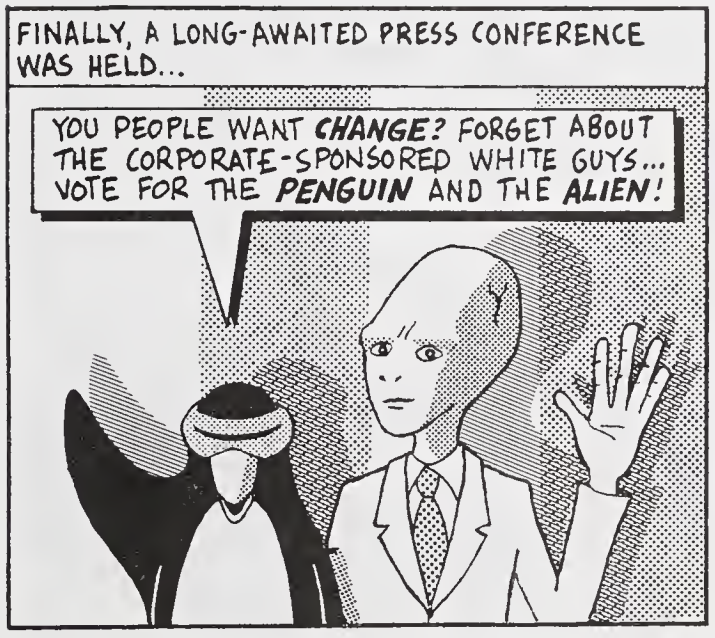

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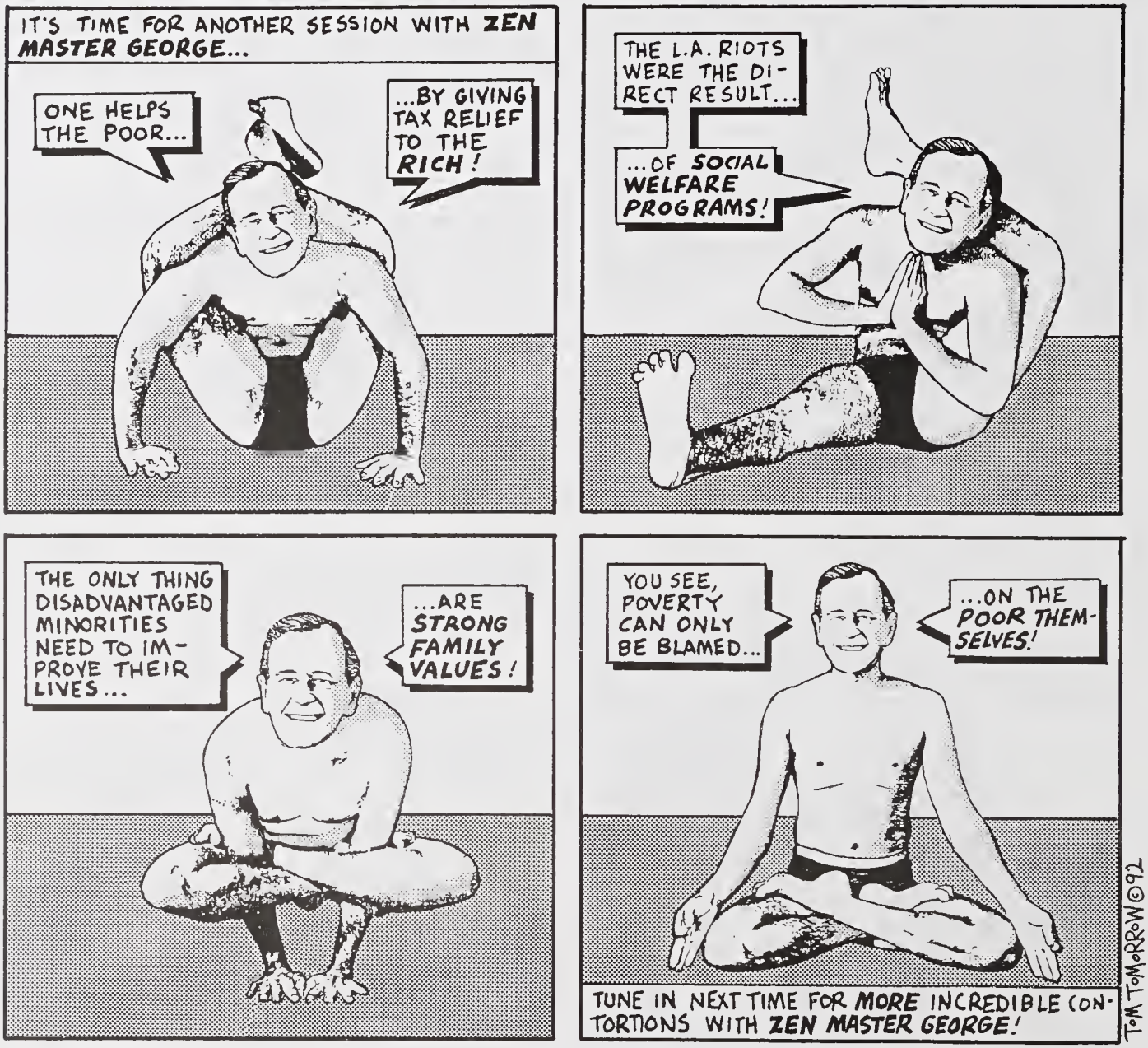

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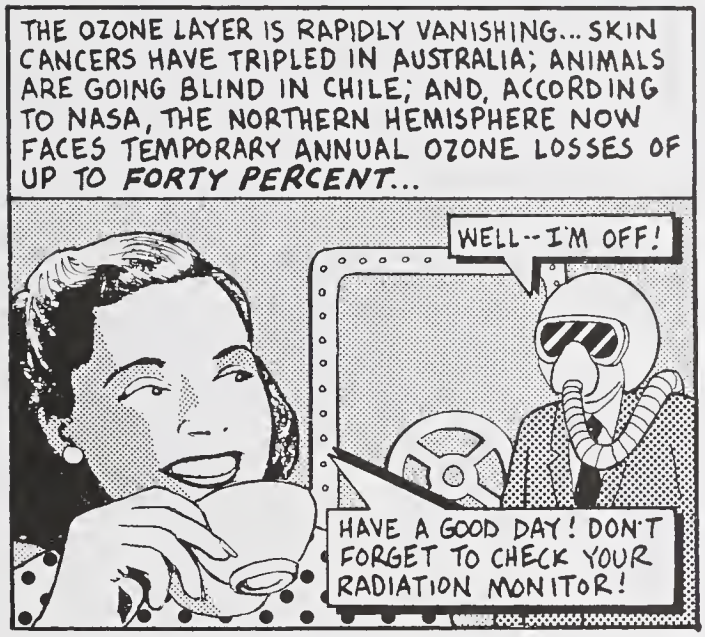

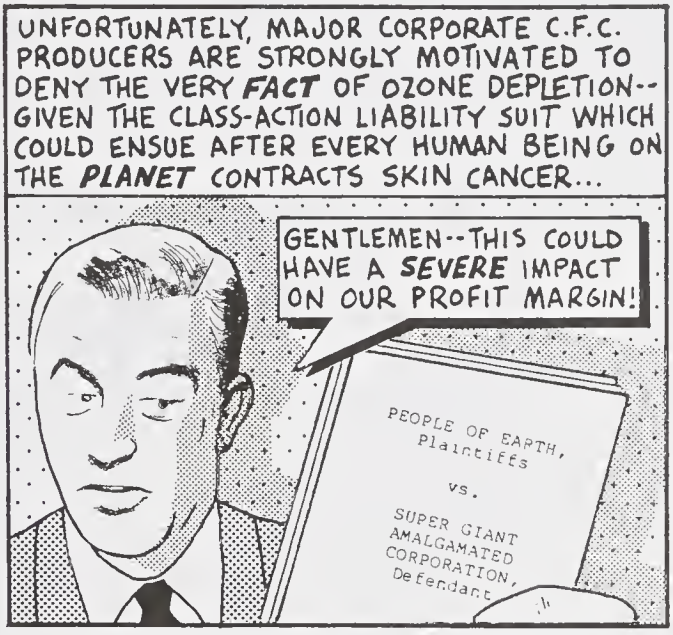

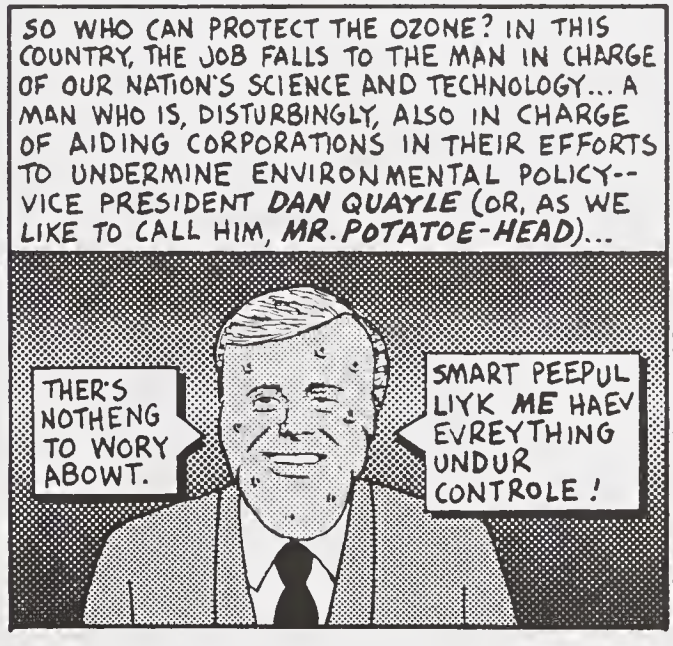

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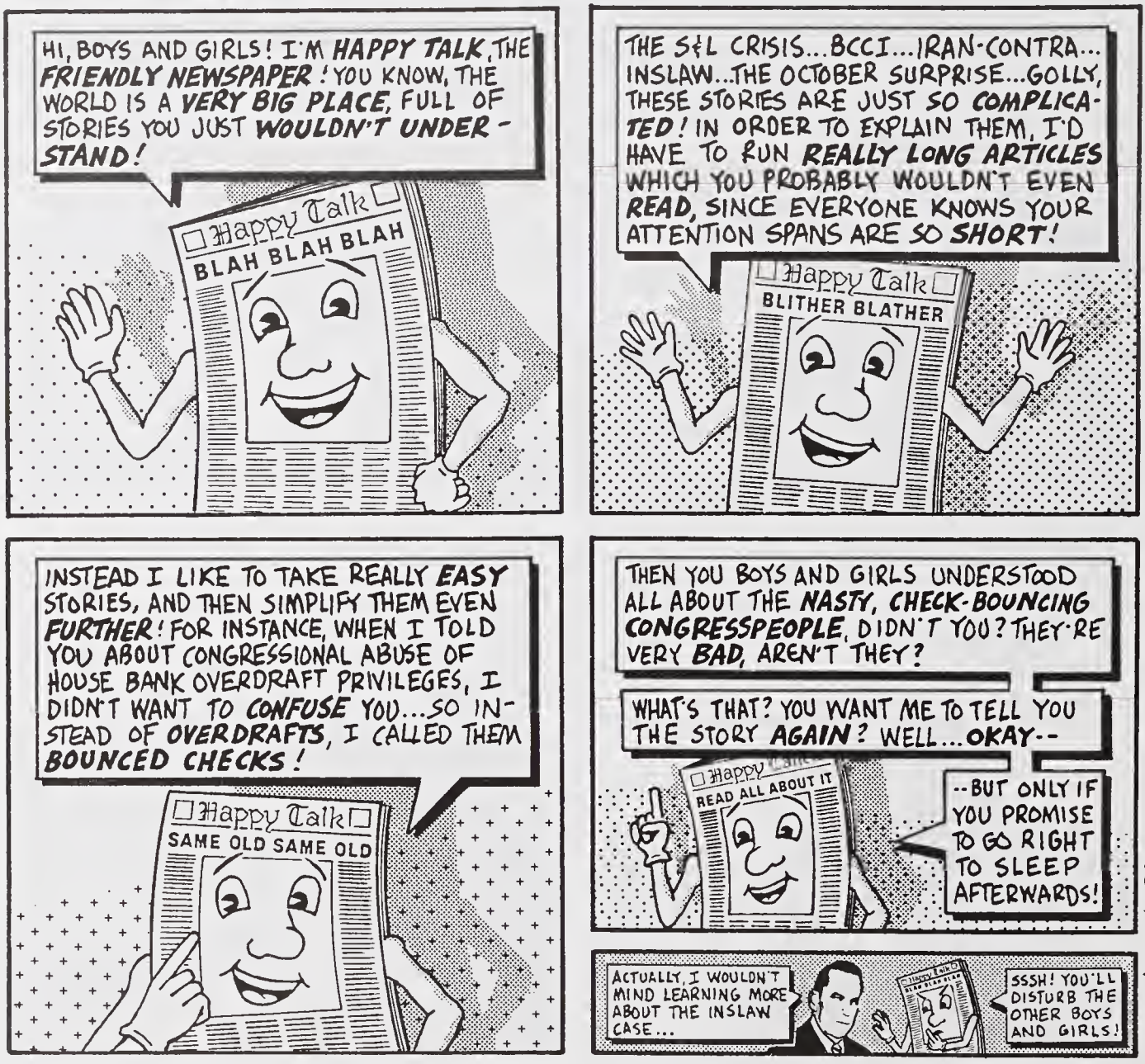

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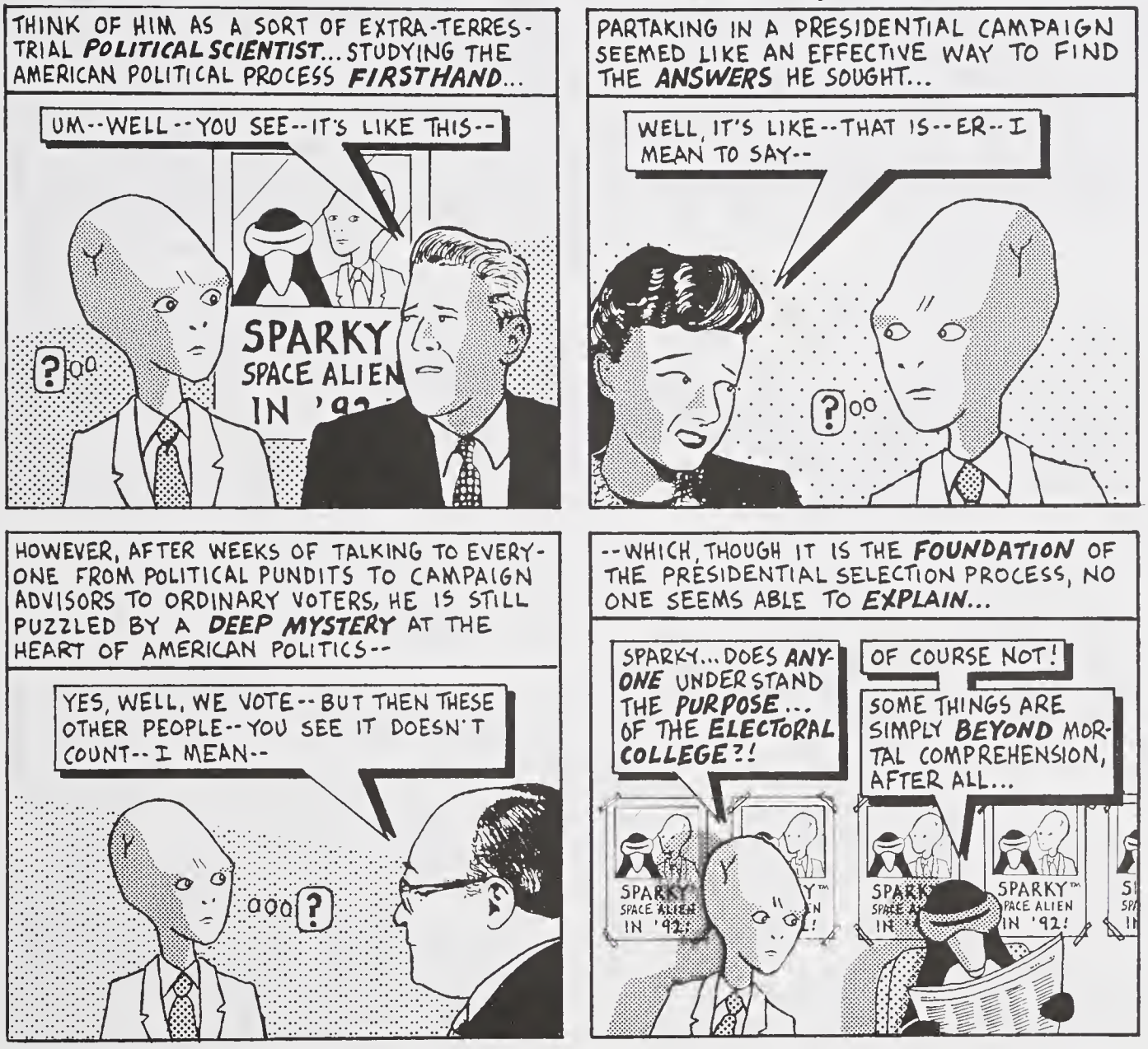

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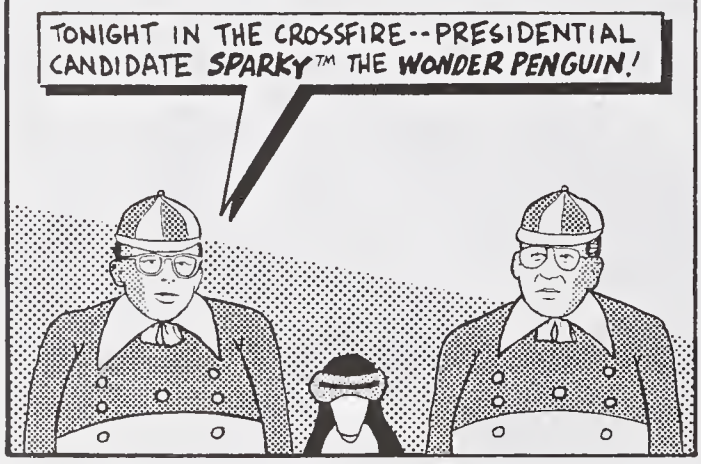
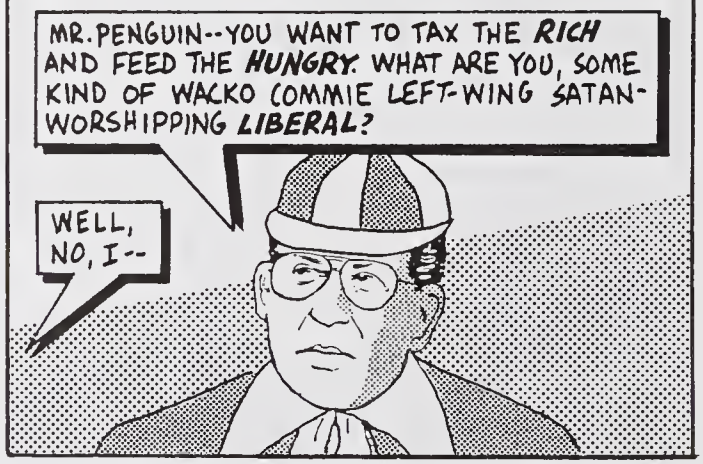
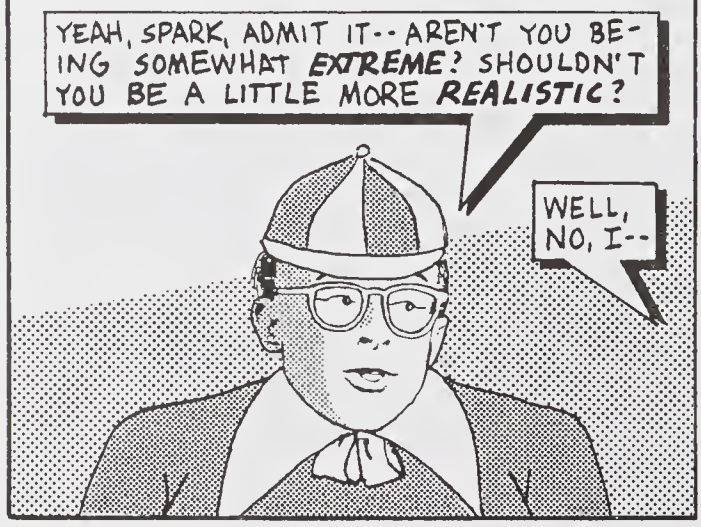
TWEEDLEDUM AND TWEEDLEDEE AGREED TO HAVE A FIGHT;
TWEEDLEDUM ARGUED FROM THE LEFT,
TWEEDLEDEE, FROM THE RIGHT.



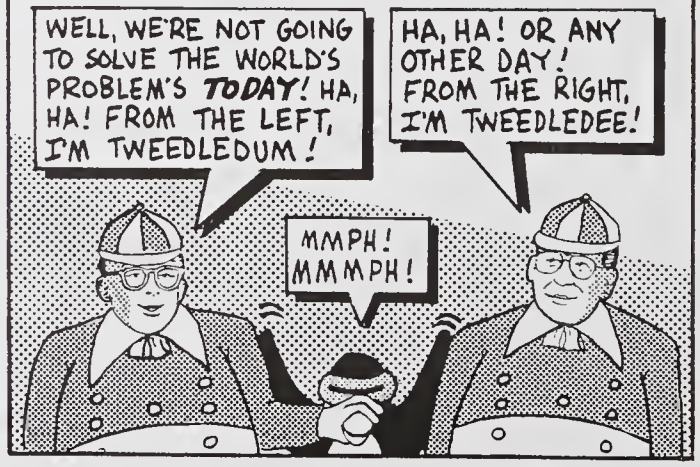
TWEEDLEDEE'S POLITICS WERE **VERY** FAR TO THE RIGHT;
HE SPEWED EXTREMIST OPINIONS WITH ALL OF HIS MIGHT.



SADLY, HOWEVER, TWEEDLEDUM PROVED TO BE A PASSIONLESS MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD WEENIE.



IN THE END NEITHER CARED WHAT ANYONE THOUGHT;
FOR IT WAS NOT THE TRUTH BUT A PAYCHECK THEY SOUGHT.



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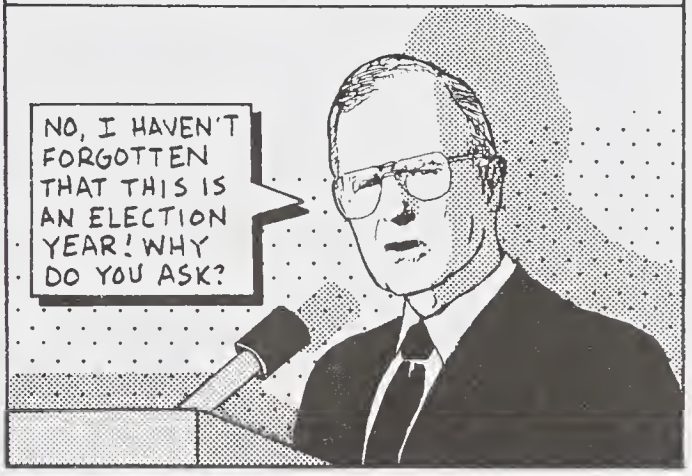
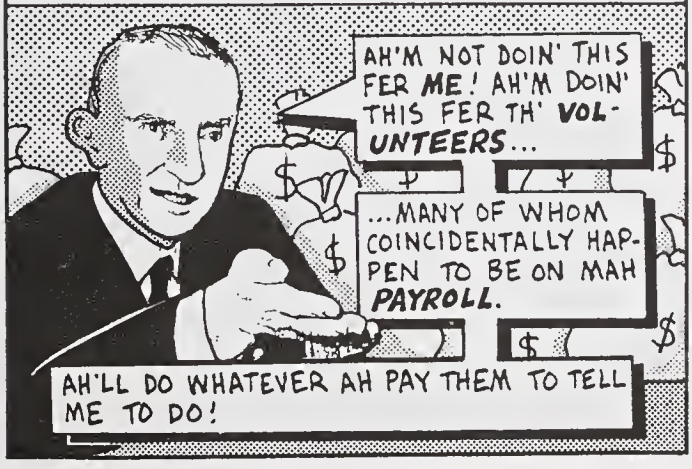
SOME WEEKS, REAL LIFE GETS SO STRANGE THAT SATIRICAL CARTOONS JUST SEEM ***UNNECESSARY***... FOR INSTANCE, DESPITE OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC WOES, NASA JUST LAUNCHED A $980 MILLION ROCKET TO ***MARS***... AND PLANS TO SPEND $2.1 ***BILLION*** ON A SPACE STATION WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE NO REAL ***PURPOSE***...

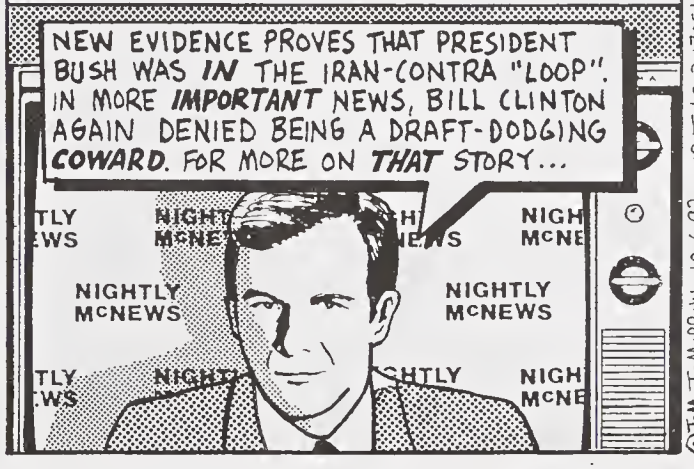
...EQUALLY BIZARRE WAS THE "FAMILY VALUES" PRESIDENT'S VETO OF THE ***FAMILY LEAVE BILL***... NOT TO MENTION THE DECISION OF THE "ENVIRONMENTAL" PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATION TO ALLOW ***STRIP MINING*** IN ***NATIONAL PARKS***...



...IN OTHER PECULIAR NEWS, EGOCENTRIC BILLIONAIRE ***H. ROSS PEROT*** REAPPEARED ON THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE... ONCE AGAIN PROCLAIMING, RATHER UNCONVINCINGLY, HIS ***SELFLESS, ALTRUISTIC MOTIVATIONS***...



...AND FINALLY, CONSIDER THE PRESS ITSELF... WHICH CONTINUES TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON BILL CLINTON'S AVOIDANCE OF AN EVIL WAR THAN ON GEORGE BUSH'S ROLE IN SUBVERTING OUR NATION'S ***CONSTITUTION***...



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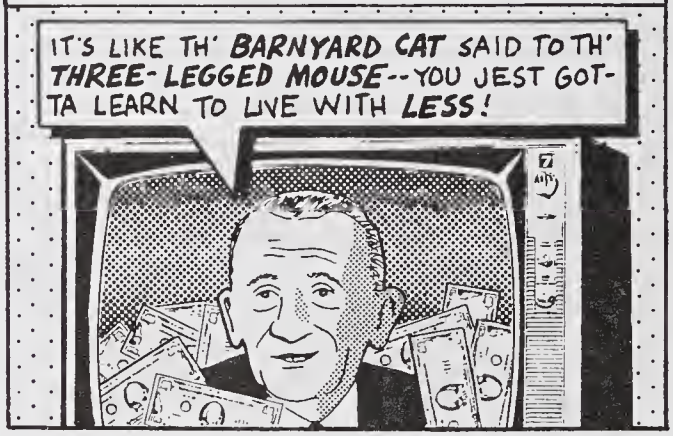
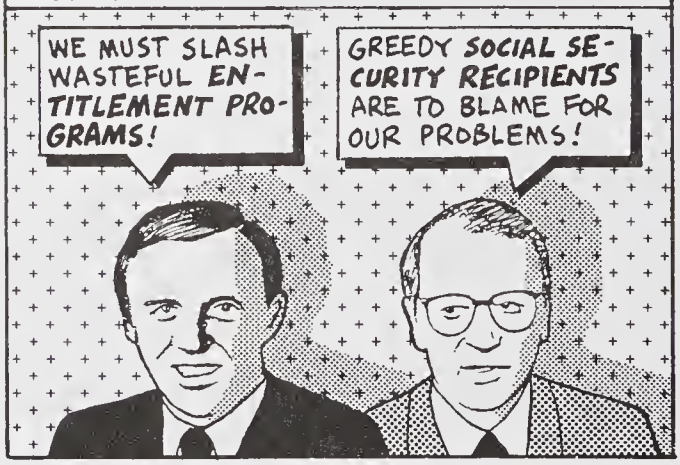
IN THESE TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES, WE'RE ALL GOING TO HAVE TO **TIGHTEN OUR BELTS** AND DO WITHOUT A FEW **NON-ESSENTIAL LUXURIES**...

BILLIONAIRE AND OCCASIONAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE **H. ROSS PEROT** UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR **AUSTERITY**...AND IS READY TO SPEND MEGABUCKS ON PRIME-TIME ADVERTISING TO HELP THE **REST** OF US SEE THE **LIGHT**...



WARREN RUDMAN AND **PAUL TSONGAS** AGREE: THERE'S ONLY **ONE WAY** TO REVITALIZE AN ECONOMY RAVAGED BY A DECADE OF UPPER-INCOME TAX CUTS AND CORPORATE DEREGULATION...



CLEARLY, IT WOULD BE **UNAMERICAN** TO EXPECT LARGE CORPORATIONS TO SHOULDER AN EQUITABLE SHARE OF THE TAX BURDEN...SO IT'S UP TO ALL OF **US** TO PITCH IN AND DO OUR PART--TO TURN THIS ECONOMY **AROUND**!

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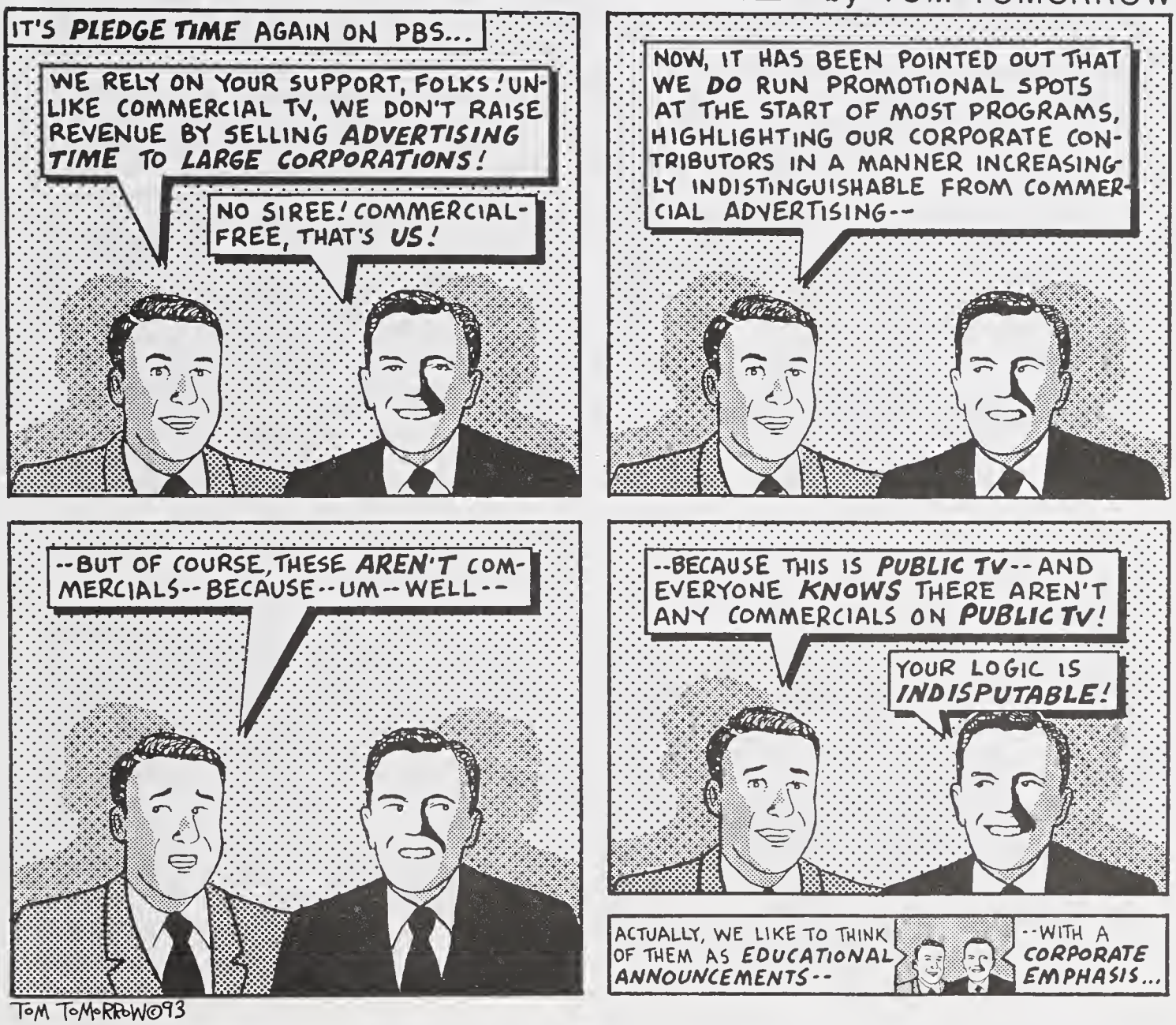

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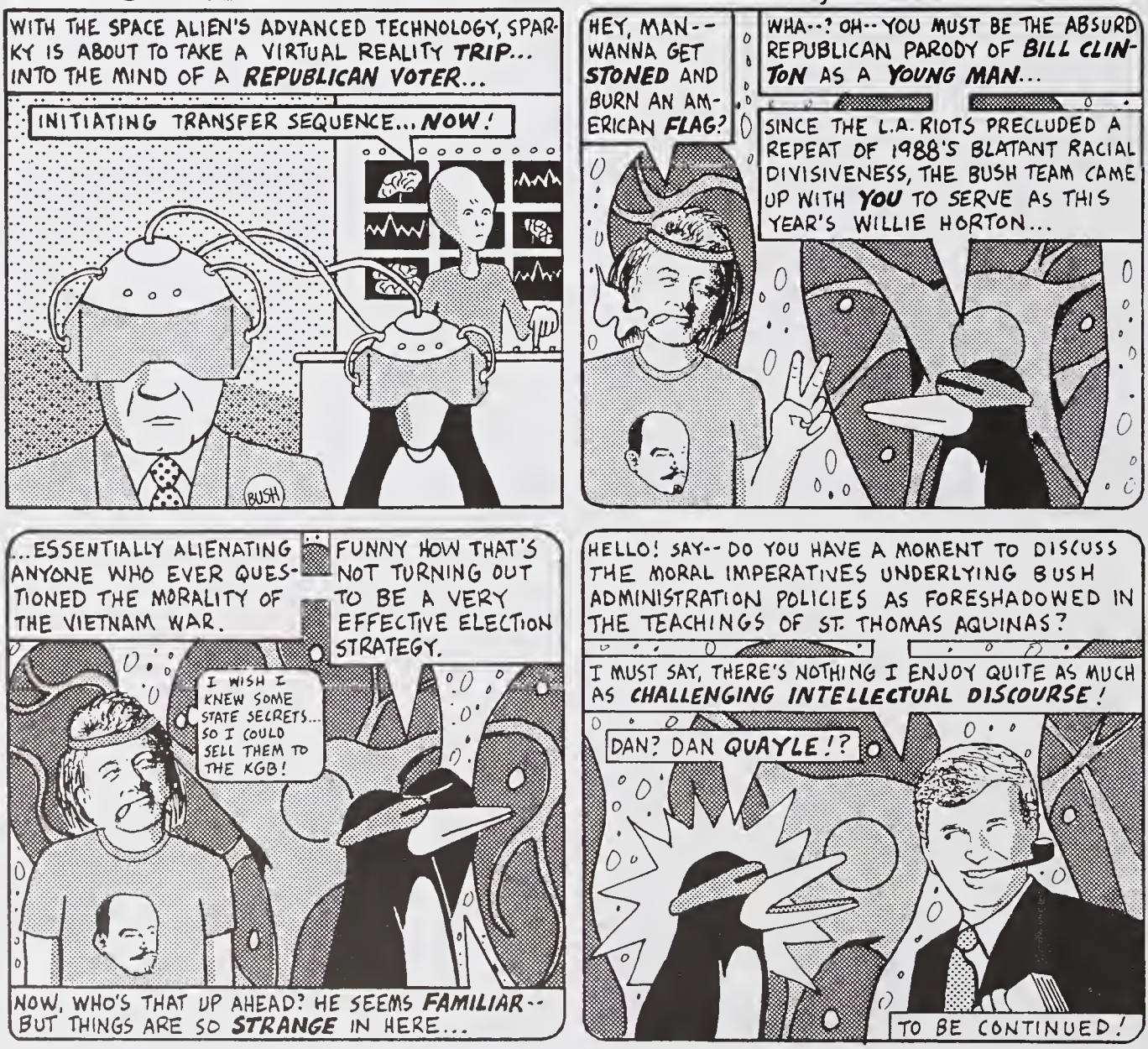

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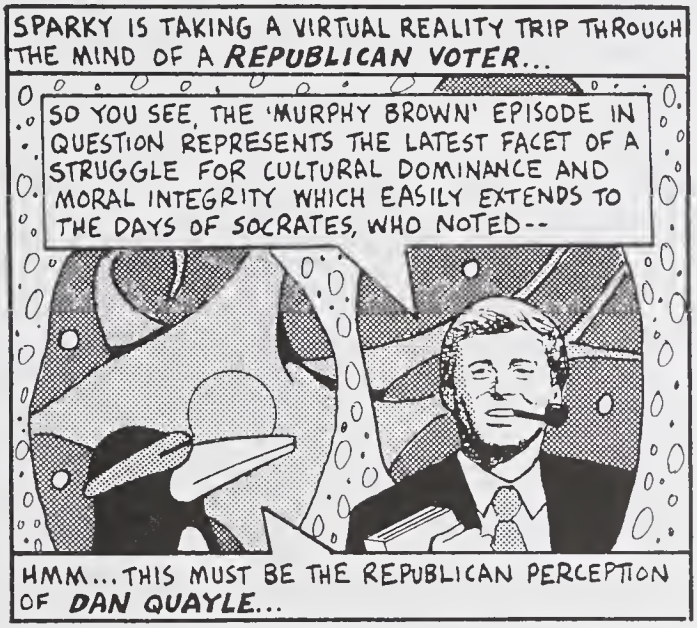

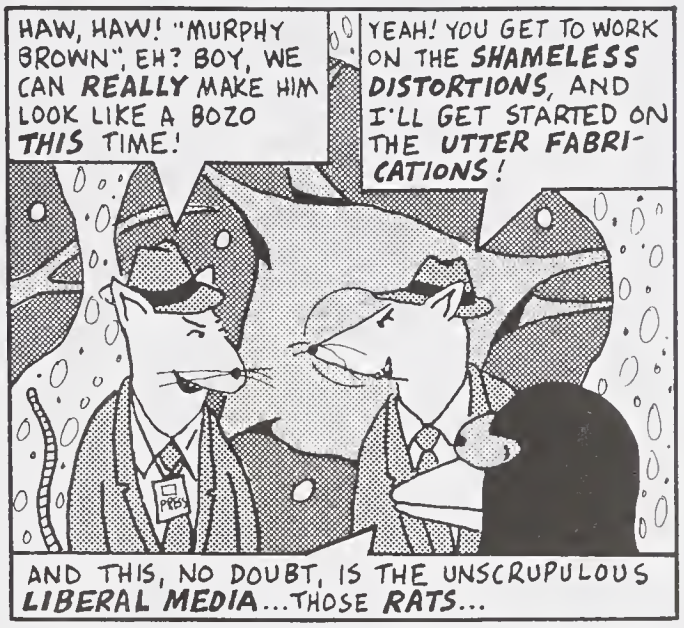

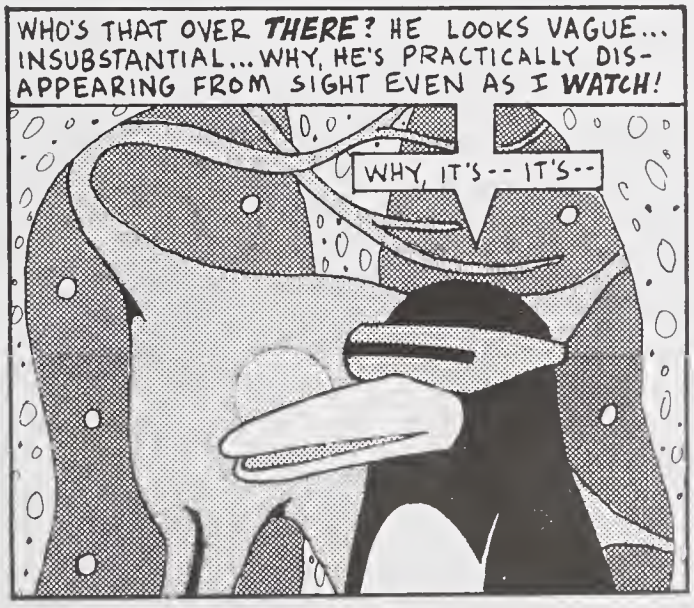

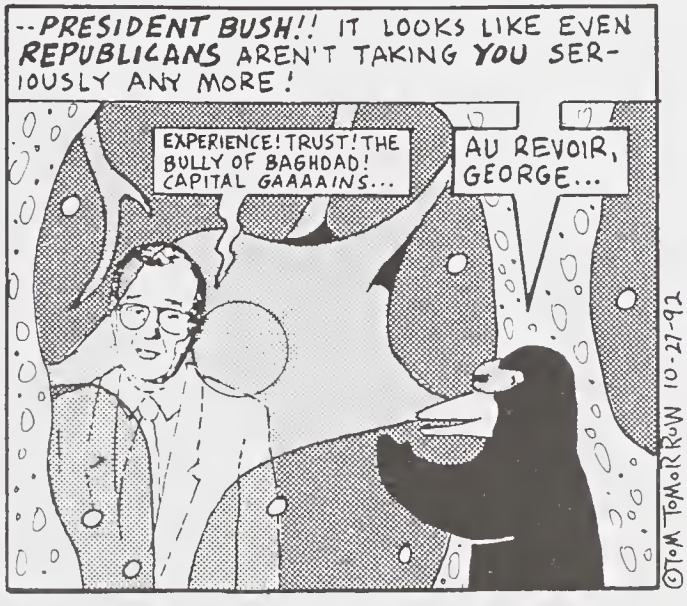

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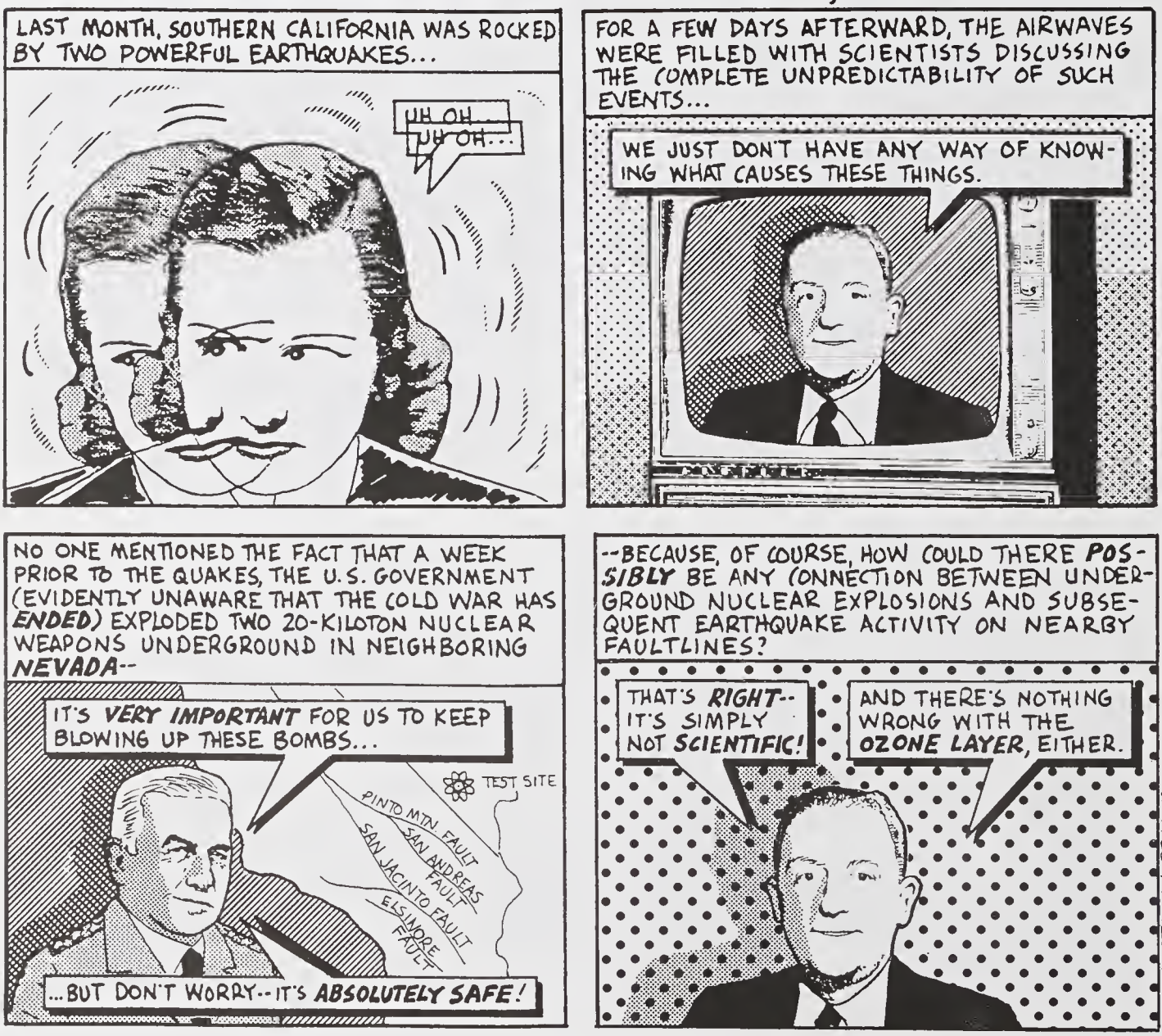

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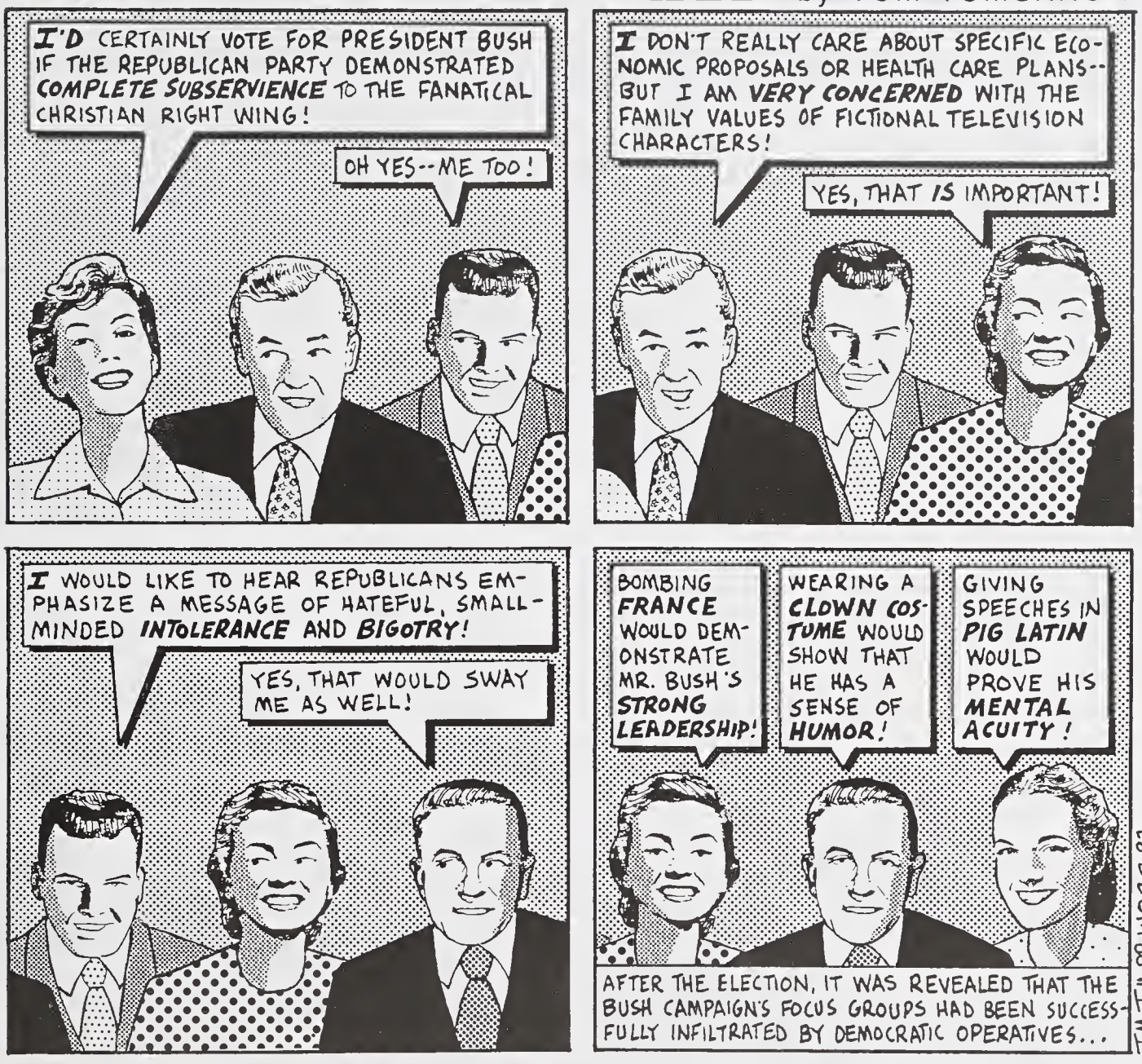

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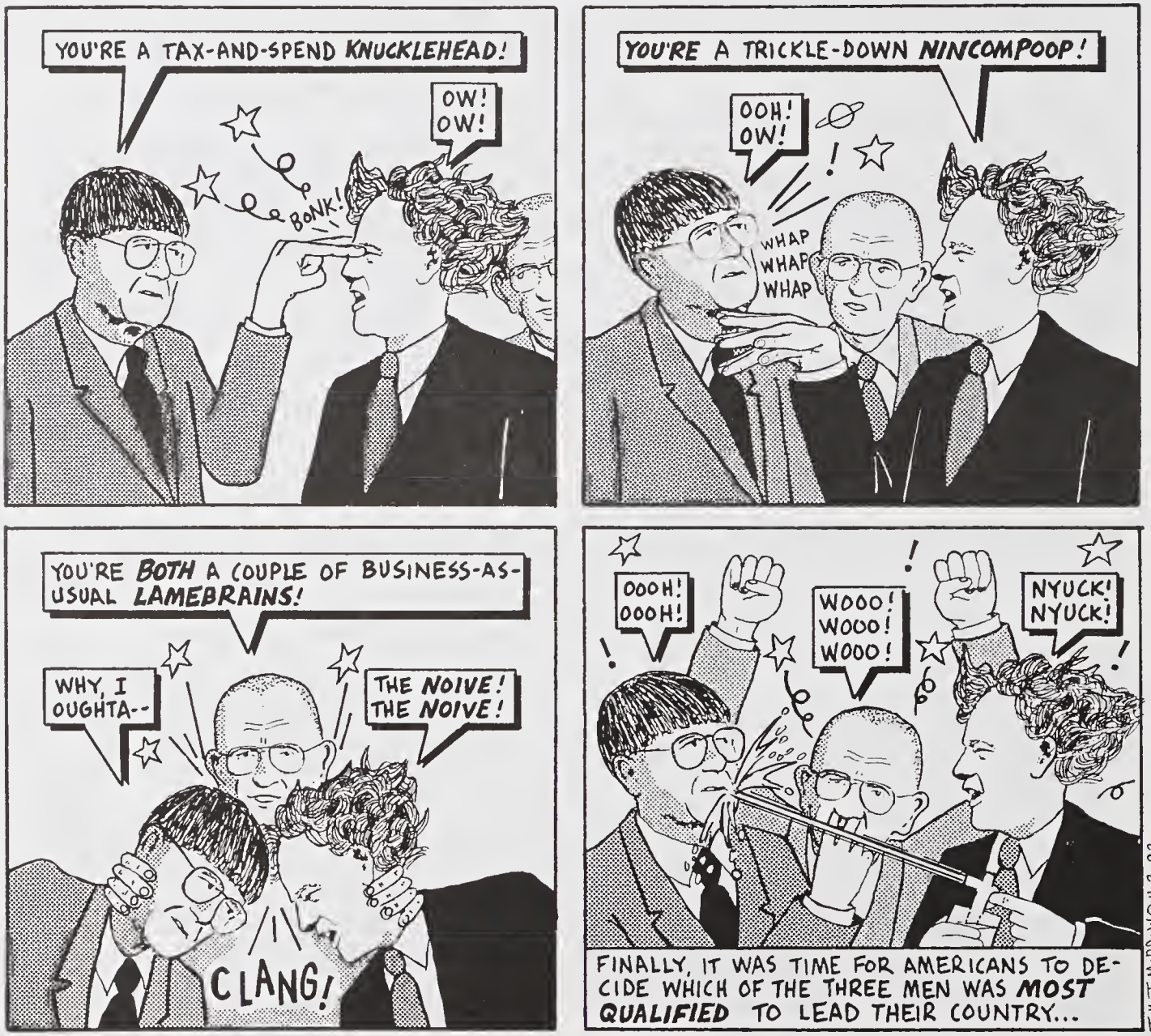

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THE WINNER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE MUST DO... IS TO APPEAR FREQUENTLY ON TELEVISION CALL-IN SHOWS!
COMING UP NEXT-- THE PRESIDENT TALKS WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE!
FIVE OR SIX OF THEM, AT LEAST...
CALL-IN SHOWS GIVE PEOPLE WHO ARE TOO LAZY TO READ NEWSPAPERS THE CHANCE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF TO EXPLAIN THINGS TO THEM!
MR. PRESIDENT... UH... WHAT'S YOUR POLICY ON, UM, THE ISSUES?
OF COURSE, THE AVERAGE CITIZEN IS MORE LIKELY TO WIN THE LOTTERY THAN TO HAVE HIS CALL TAKEN ON THE AIR... STILL, THE PRESIDENT IS ABLE TO PROJECT A SENSE OF ACCESSIBILITY...
I FEEL LIKE HE IS MY CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND!
ME TOO! I ONLY WISH HE HAD CALL WAITING!
CALL-IN SHOWS ALSO GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CHANCE TO PROCLAIM A MANDATE-- ON THE BASIS OF ONE RANDOM PHONE CALL...
I THINK YOU SHOULD DECLARE MARTIAL LAW AND IMPRISON ALL WHO DISAGREE WITH YOU!
WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT, THAT'S WHAT I'LL DO!
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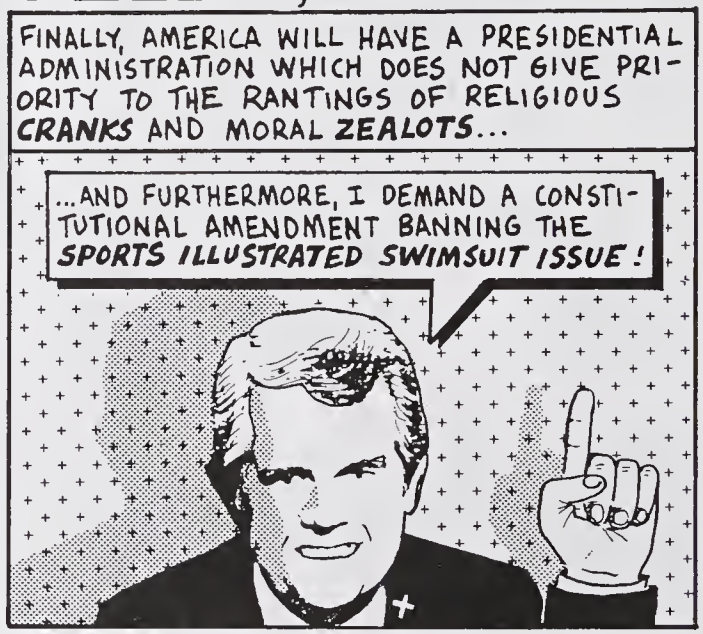

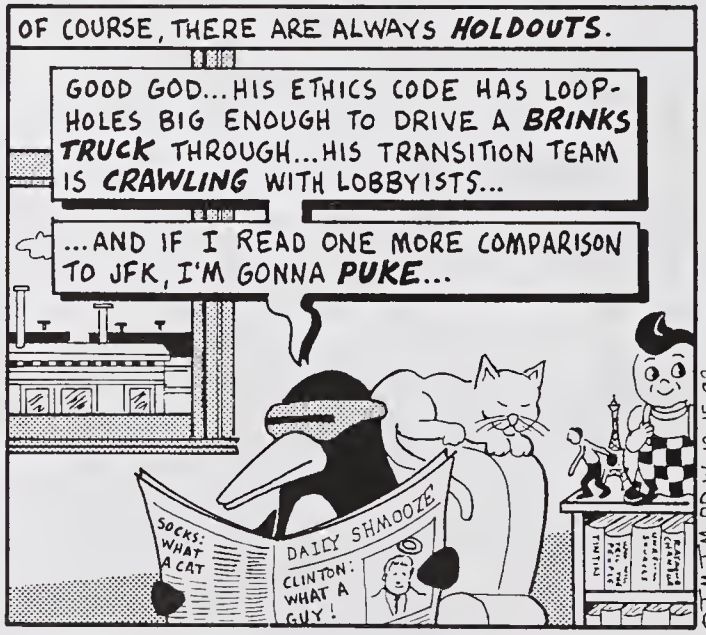

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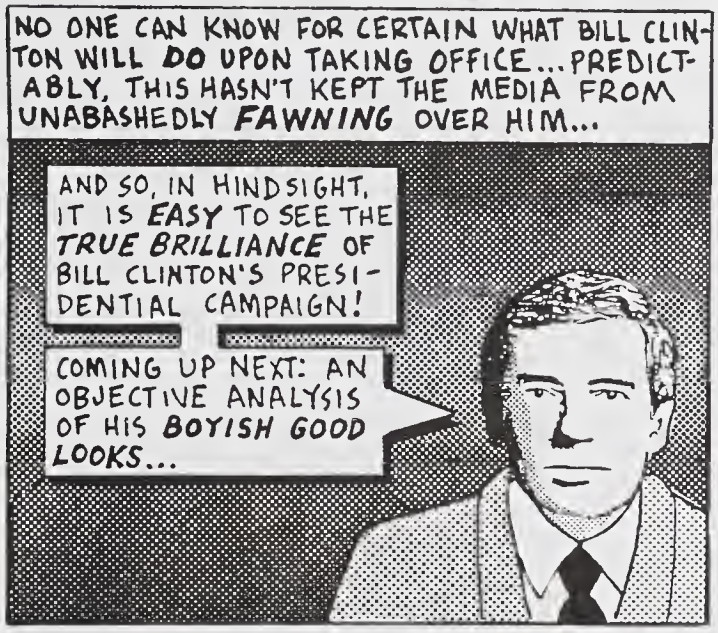

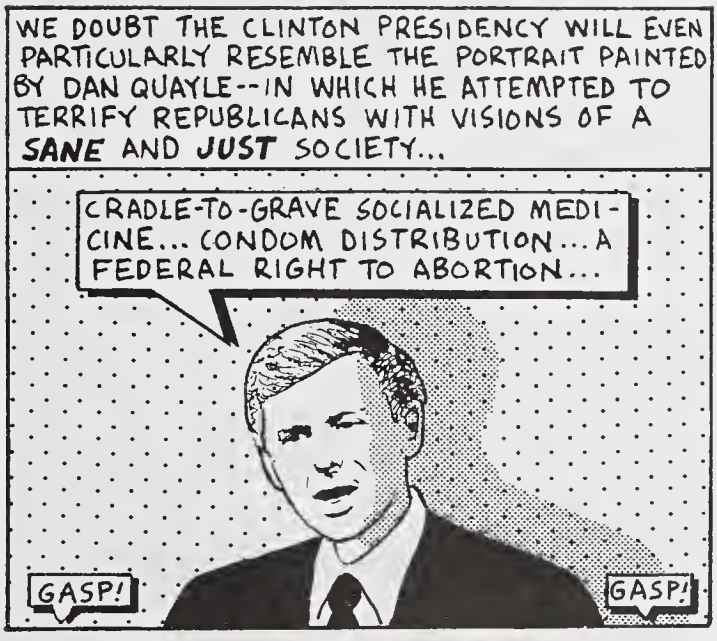

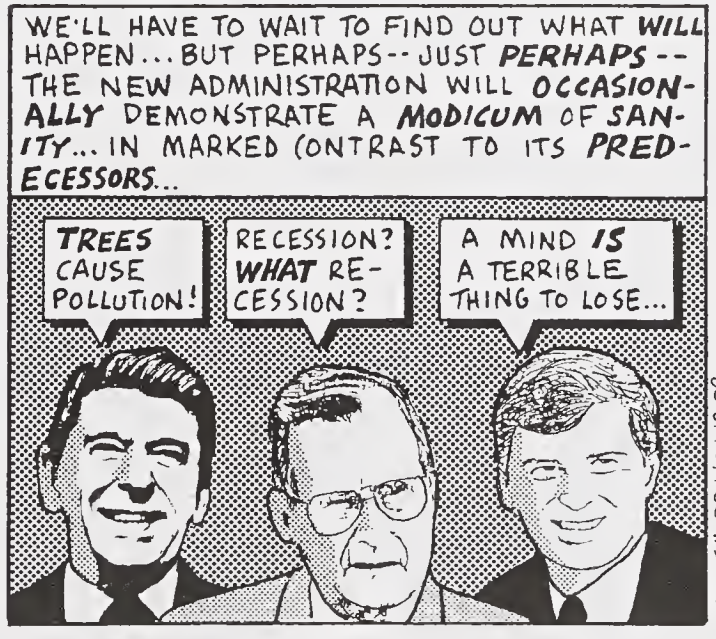

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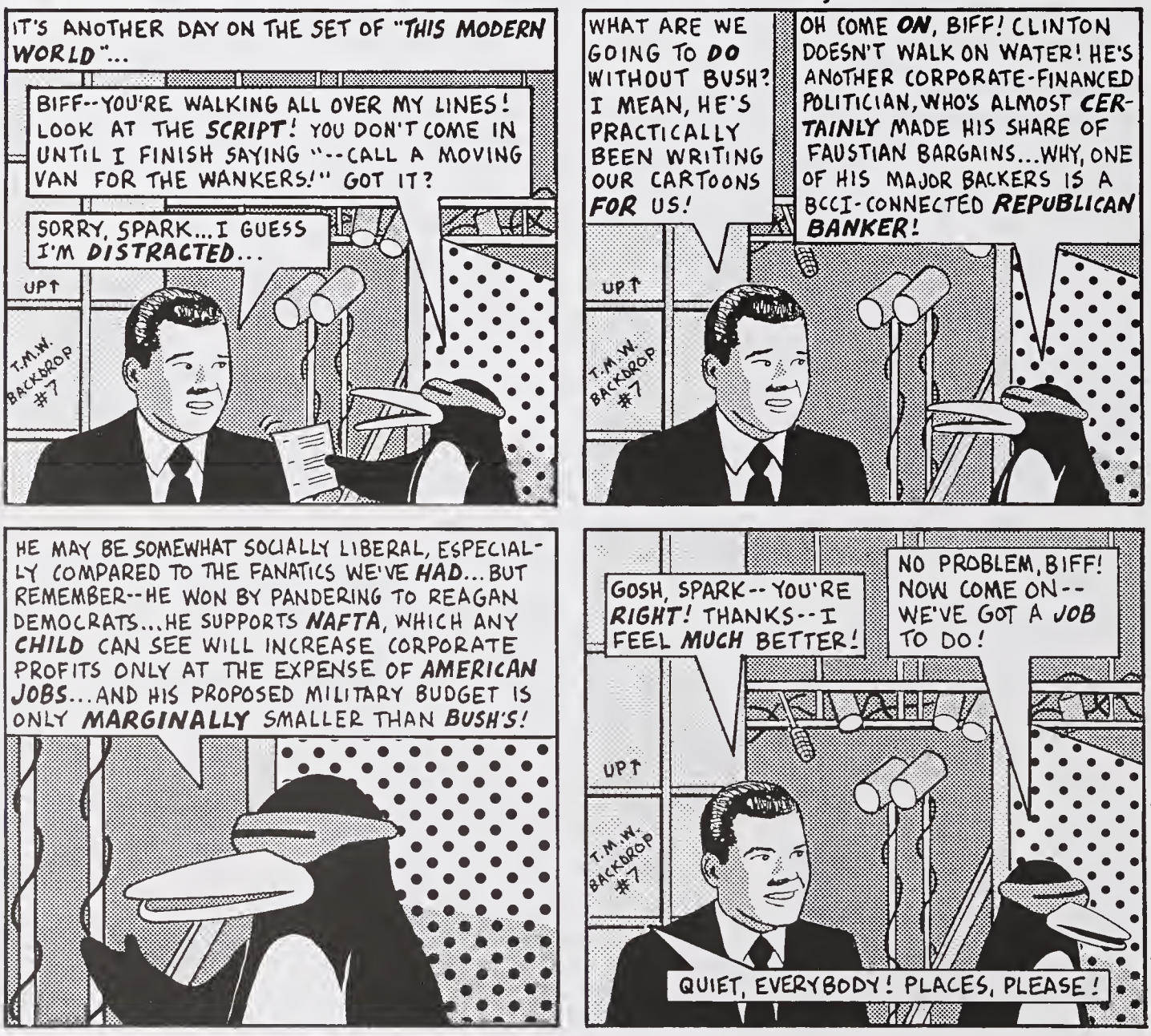

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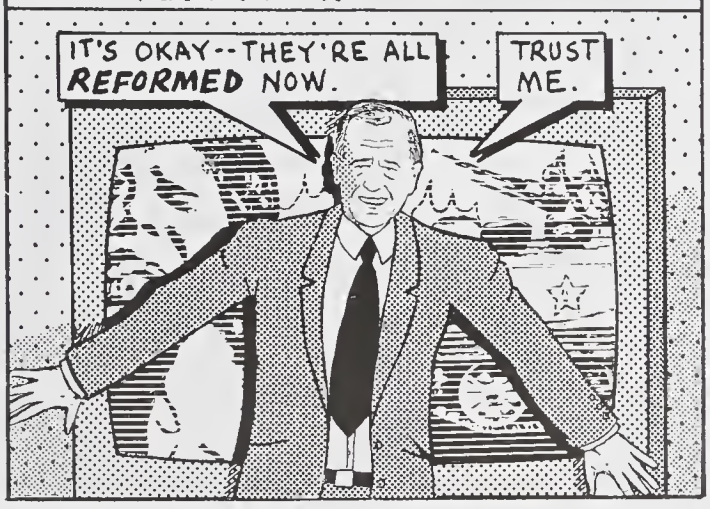
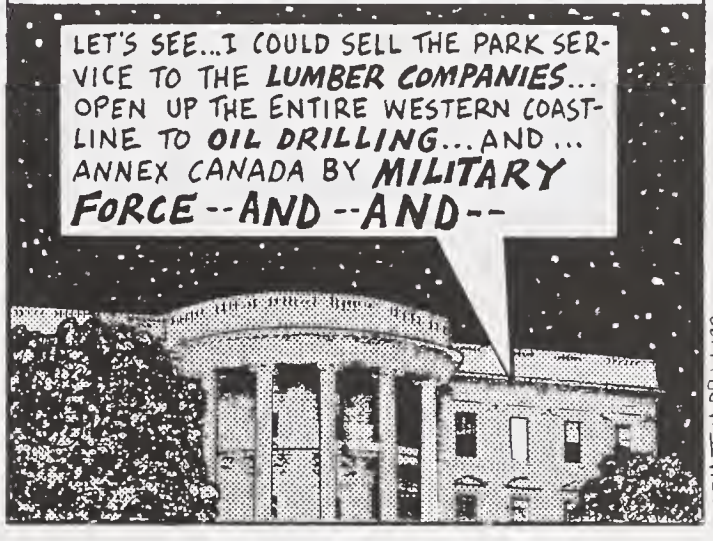
IN THE WANING DAYS OF HIS PRESIDENCY, GEORGE BUSH AUTHORIZES THE FIRST ARMS SHIPMENT TO CHINA SINCE THE TIENANMEN SQUARE ***MASSACRE***...



...AND, OF COURSE, GRANTS CHRISTMAS EVE PARDONS TO SIX IRAN-CONTRA CONSPIRATORS...WHO, LET US REMEMBER, WAGED AN ILLEGAL WAR OF TERRORISM AGAINST AN IMPOVERISHED NATION IN WHICH A MULTITUDE OF INNOCENT CIVILIANS WERE ***SLAUGHTERED***...

BUSH HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE JUDGMENT ***HISTORY*** WILL BESTOW UPON HIM...WITH ***GOOD REASON***, WE'D HAVE TO SAY...

FOR NOW, LET'S JUST HOPE WE MAKE IT TO JAN. 20TH BEFORE BUSH DOES ***TOO*** MUCH MORE LAST MINUTE DAMAGE...



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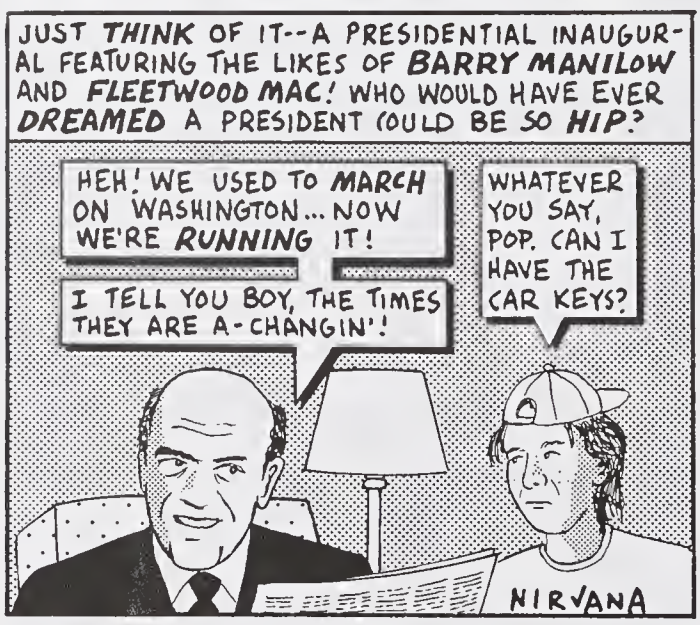
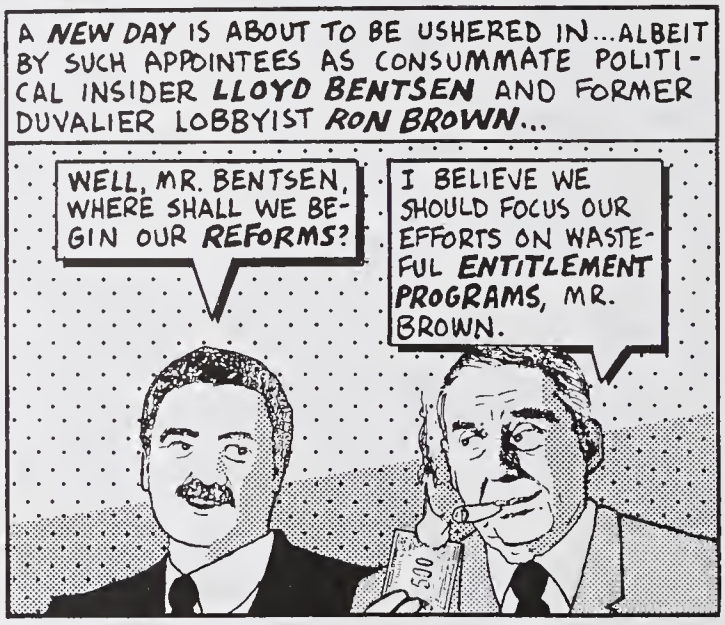
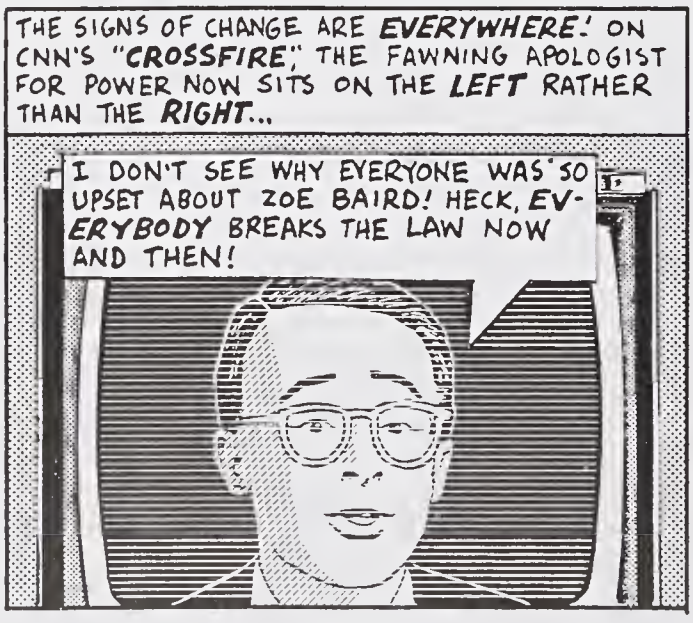
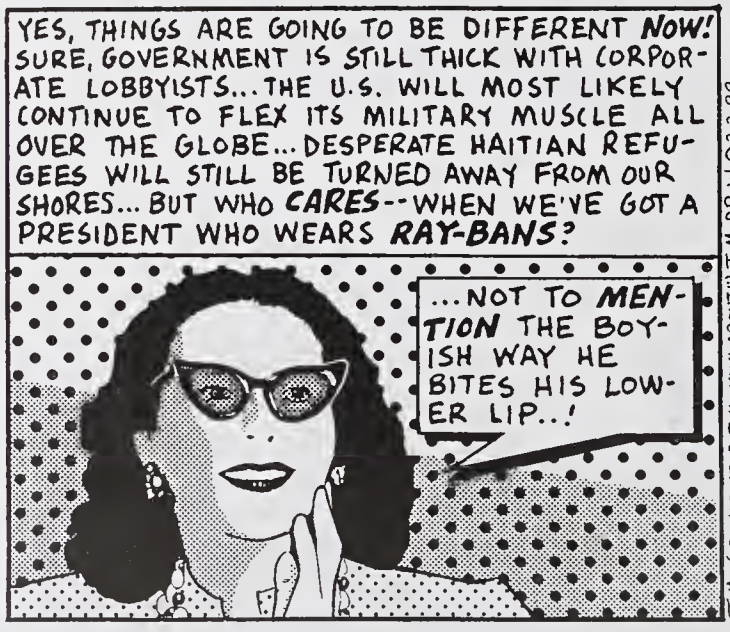








THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

IN A RECENT FULL-PAGE AD IN THE SUNDAY *NEW YORK TIMES*, DONALD WILDMON ONCE AGAIN DECLARED THE *ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY* TO BE THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL...

HMM... SO FICTIONAL PORTRAYALS OF SOCIETY'S PROBLEMS... ARE ACTUALLY THE *CAUSE* OF THOSE PROBLEMS!

Shame on movies, records and TV!

A GRASS ROOTS PETITION TO THE BOARDS OF DIRECTORS OF ENTERTAINMENT COMPANIES

We Are Outraged!

And We're Not Going To Put Up With It Any Longer!

REV. WILDMON'S DISTRUST OF *BROADCASTERS* IS EVIDENTLY SHARED BY *AL GORE*... IN '89, WHEN A REPUBLICAN NOMINEE TO THE F.C.C. SUGGESTED, IN EFFECT, THAT THE *FIRST AMENDMENT* MIGHT EVEN APPLY TO PROGRAMMING OF A SEXUAL OR OTHERWISE *CONTROVERSIAL* NATURE, GORE REPLIED ANGRILY:

..THE *AMERICAN PEOPLE* KNOW THERE IS A WAY TO STOP *INDECENCY* WITHOUT VIOLATING THE CONSTITUTION!*

*ACTUAL QUOTE, SADLY ENOUGH.

AL'S WIFE *TIPPER* IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HER WORK WITH THE PRO-CENSORSHIP *P.M.R.C.*... WHICH SHE FOUNDED UPON DISCOVERING, TO HER DISMAY, THAT POP MUSIC LYRICS OFTEN CONTAIN REFERENCES TO ACTIVITIES FROWNED UPON BY *PARENTS*...

WHY CAN'T KIDS TODAY LISTEN TO *NICE* MUSIC--

--LIKE *WE* DID... BACK IN THE *SIXTIES!*

NONETHELESS, ONE OF THE MUSICIANS SCHEDULED TO PERFORM FOR THE GORES AT AN INAUGURAL BALL IS THAT NOTED ADVOCATE OF DECENCY AND CLEAN LIVING, *LOU REED*... AND FRANKLY, WE CAN'T DECIDE WHICH IS MORE PECULIAR-- THAT HE WAS *ASKED*, OR THAT HE *ACCEPTED*...

...KISS THE SHINY, SHINY BOOTS OF LEATHER...

OH, AL--I JUST *LOVE* THE *OLD CLASSICS!*

TOM TOMORROW © 1-19-92

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

EVENTS DURING BUSH'S FINAL DAYS MADE SATIRE ***REDUNDANT***...FROM THE MEDIA'S INSTANT, SYCOPHANTIC (AND ***MISTAKEN***) DENIALS OF U.S. CULPABILITY IN THE BOMBING OF AN IRAQI ***HOTEL***--

THERE'S ONLY ***ONE*** POSSIBLE EXPLANATION--***SADDAM*** MUST HAVE ***PLANTED*** THOSE MISSILE FRAGMENTS!

THANK YOU, GENERAL, FOR ***EXPOSING*** THAT MADMAN'S ***TRICKERY!***

--TO THE RELEASE OF AN ABSURDLY SELF-SERVING TRANSCRIPT OF BUSH'S ***IRAN-CONTRA*** RUMINATIONS, THE VALIDITY OF WHICH WENT ***UNQUESTIONED***--

JAN.1, 1987... THE IRONY IS THAT ON MANY OF THESE KEY MEETINGS I WAS NOT THERE...

THESE SO-CALLED FINDINGS ON IRAN--I'LL BE HONEST--I DON'T REMEMBER ANY OF THEM... THE V.P. IS NOT IN THE DECISION-MAKING LOOP...*

*ACTUAL QUOTES. ***WE*** COULDN'T MAKE THIS UP.

--TO THE ***COMICAL*** EXPLANATIONS GIVEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN THEIR DESPERATE LAST-MINUTE LEGAL BATTLE TO ERASE COMPUTER RECORDS...

WE WANT TO, UM, GIVE THE NEW PRESIDENT A ***CLEAN SLATE!***

WE'RE ONLY TRYING TO BE ***HELPFUL!***

ERASE FILE? (Y/N)
- IRAN/CONTRA
- IRAQGATE
- OCTOBER SURPRISE
- BCCI

THANKFULLY, THAT'S ALL ***BEHIND*** US...A NEW ERA OF ***OPEN*** AND ***INCLUSIVE GOVERNMENT*** HAS BEGUN--KICKED OFF BY A WEEK OF INAUGURAL FESTIVITIES, MANY OF WHICH COULD ONLY BE VIEWED ON ***H.B.O.***...

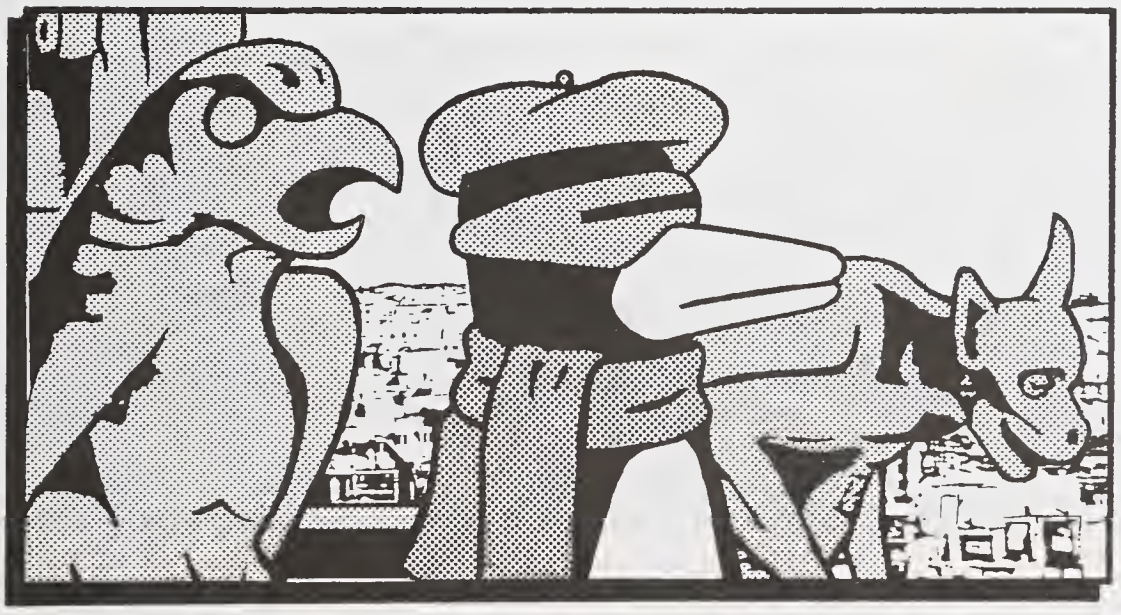
THIS IS A DAY FOR ***ALL AMERICANS***--

--WHO CAN AFFORD ***CABLE T.V.***, THAT IS!

TOM TOMORROW 1-26-93

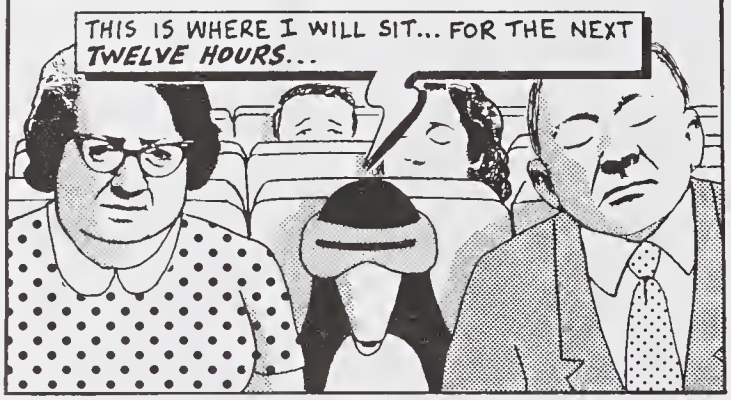
DURING THE INAUGURAL ***HOOPLA***, A CERTAIN CYNICAL PENGUIN DECIDES THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID LISTENING TO "DON'T STOP THINKIN' ABOUT TOMORROW" FOR A SOLID ***WEEK*** IS TO LEAVE THE ***COUNTRY***... *SO*, WHILE AMERICANS ***FAWN*** OVER THEIR NEW PRESIDENT--

SPARKY goes to PARIS

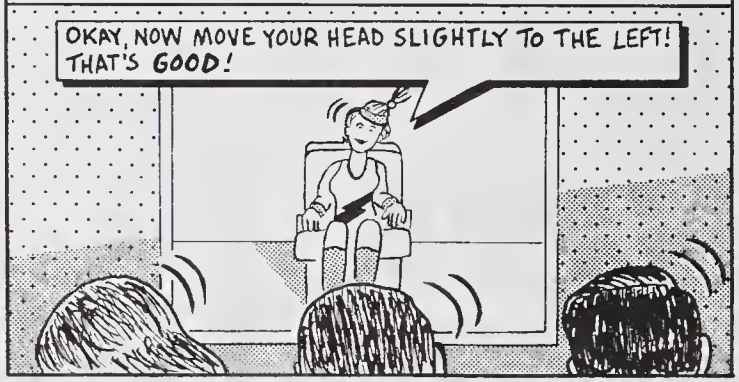


A MOSTLY-TRUE CARTOON TRAVELOGUE BY TOM TOMORROW

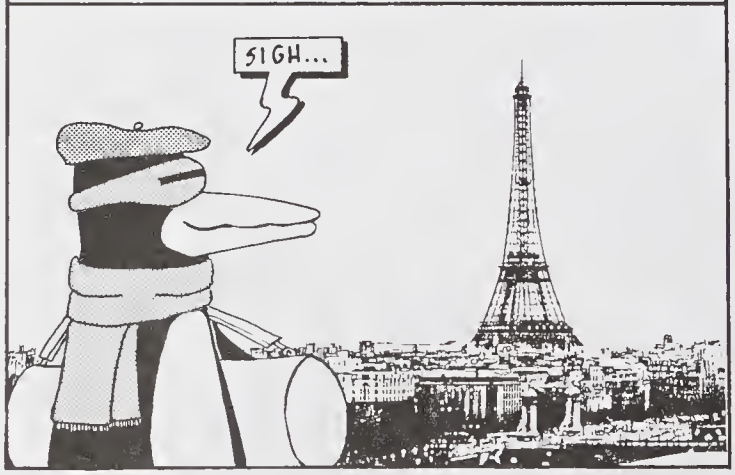
THERE IS AN ANCIENT PROVERB WHICH STATES THAT A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH A SINGLE STEP... IN ***MODERN*** TIMES, HOWEVER, SUCH JOURNEYS BEGIN WITH AN INTERMINABLE PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT IN A CLAUSTROPHOBIC ***AIRPLANE SEAT***...



RECOGNIZING THAT A PROBLEM EXISTS, THE AIRLINE ON WHICH SPARKY IS TRAVELLING HAS PRODUCED A ***WORK-OUT VIDEO***... FEATURING AN AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR IN LEOTARDS GUIDING PASSENGERS THROUGH A SERIES OF EXERCISES WHICH CAN BE PERFORMED WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF A TYPICAL AIRLINE SEAT...

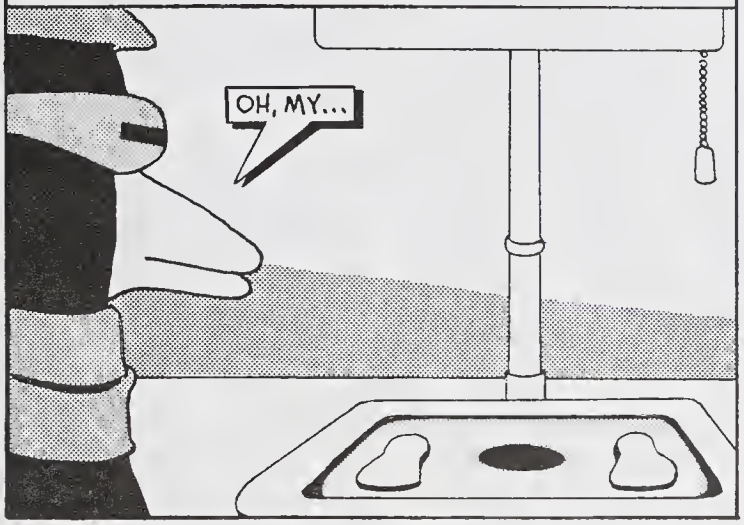


EVENTUALLY, OF COURSE, THE ORDEAL ***ENDS***... BEDRAGGLED AND EXHAUSTED, SPARKY IS NONETHELESS EXHILARATED TO FIND HIMSELF IN ONE OF HIS FAVORITE CITIES...

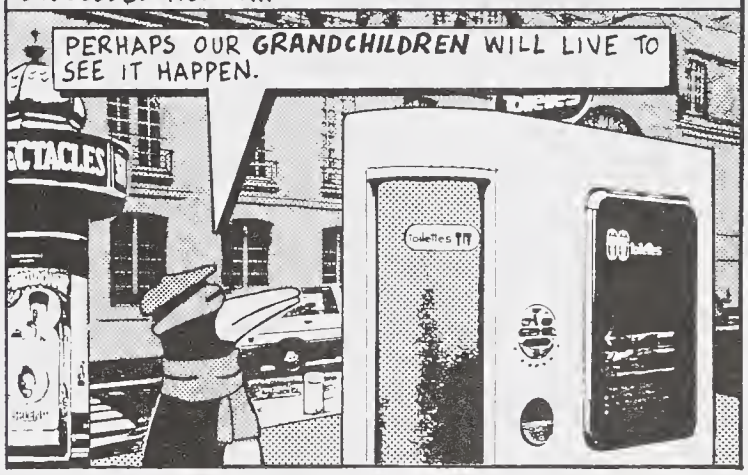


AFTER CHECKING IN TO HIS HOTEL, SPARKY BEGINS HIS FIRST DAY IN PARIS AT A BRASSERIE, WITH A STRONG ESPRESSO... WATERY AMERICAN-STYLE COFFEE IS UNKNOWN HERE... IT COSTS EXTRA TO SIT, SO MOST PARISIANS CHOOSE TO STAND AT THE BAR... SPEAKING LITTLE FRENCH, SPARKY CAN ONLY ***WONDER*** WHAT THEY ARE DISCUSSING...

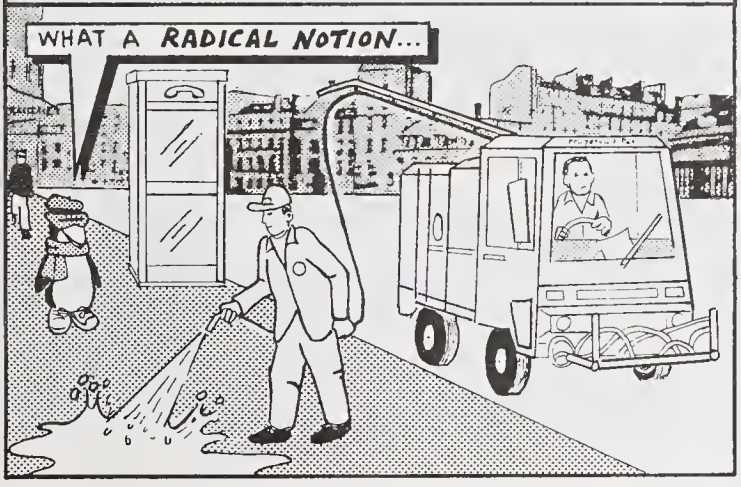
IN THE **BATHROOM**, SPARKY DISCOVERS ONE OF PARIS' NOTORIOUS **TURKISH-STYLE TOILETS**--ESSENTIALLY A PORCELAIN **HOLE** IN THE GROUND WITH **FOOTRESTS** ON EITHER SIDE... WE SHALL LEAVE THE DETAILS OF ITS **USE** TO THE READER'S **IMAGINATION**...



FORTUNATELY FOR TRAVELLERS, THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS--SELF-CLEANING PAY TOILETS ARE COMMON ON THE STREET... ALTHOUGH WENDY NELDER WAS THOROUGHLY **HUMILIATED** A FEW YEARS AGO FOR SUGGESTING THAT SAN FRANCISCO MIGHT SIMILARLY WANT TO ACCEPT THE REALITY OF BODILY FUNCTIONS, THE IDEA **IS** BEING DISCUSSED AGAIN...

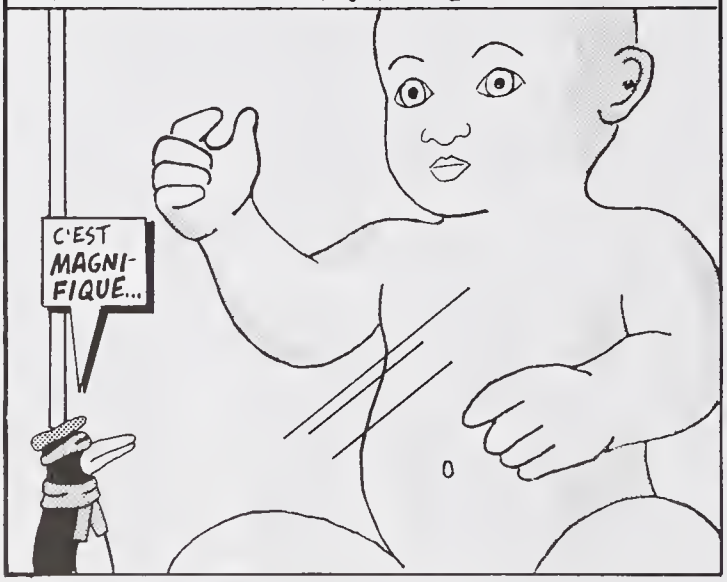


A SMALL STREETCLEANING VEHICLE PASSES BY... ONE WORKER DRIVES WHILE ANOTHER WALKS ALONGSIDE, OPERATING A WATER HOSE... RATHER THAN VIEWING STREETCLEANING AS AN EXCUSE TO GENERATE **PARKING TICKET REVENUE**, THE CITY OF PARIS ACTUALLY ATTEMPTS TO **CLEAN** ITS STREETS AND SIDEWALKS...



PARIS, OF COURSE, IS A CITY OF **MONUMENTS**... THE EIFFEL TOWER... THE ARC DE TRIOMPHE... BASTILLE... HOWEVER, SPARKY HEADS FOR NONE OF **THESE**--BUT RATHER, **HIS** PERSONAL FAVORITE--

--THE ***GIANT BABY*** IN THE WINDOW OF JOUETS & CIE TOY STORE ON BLVD. DE SEBASTOPOL...



SPARKY THEN HEADS DOWN INTO THE ***METRO***... PROMPT AND DEPENDABLE, IT IS A MARVEL OF EFFICIENCY (UNLIKE ***SOME*** TRANSIT SYSTEMS WE COULD MENTION*) AND WITHIN A FEW MINUTES A TRAIN ARRIVES...

*GRATUITOUS MUNI REFERENCE. THOSE WHO BELIEVE MUNI ***IS*** A MARVEL OF EFFICIENCY MAY WRITE TOM TOMORROW c/o THIS PAPER. DON'T ALL GET UP AT ONCE.

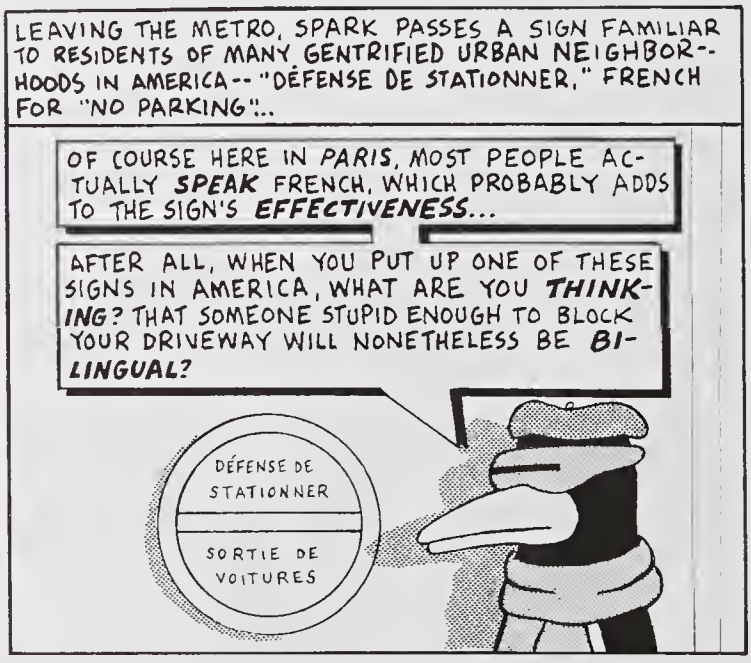
ON THE TRAIN, HE SITS NEXT TO A BLONDE FRENCH WOMAN IN AN "X" CAP...

..NO DOUBT SHE IS EXPRESSING HER DEEP EMPATHY FOR THE CENTURIES OF SUBJUGATION AND SUFFERING ENDURED BY BLACK PEOPLE IN AMERICA...

LEAVING THE METRO, SPARK PASSES A SIGN FAMILIAR TO RESIDENTS OF MANY GENTRIFIED URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS IN AMERICA-- "DÉFENSE DE STATIONNER," FRENCH FOR "NO PARKING"...

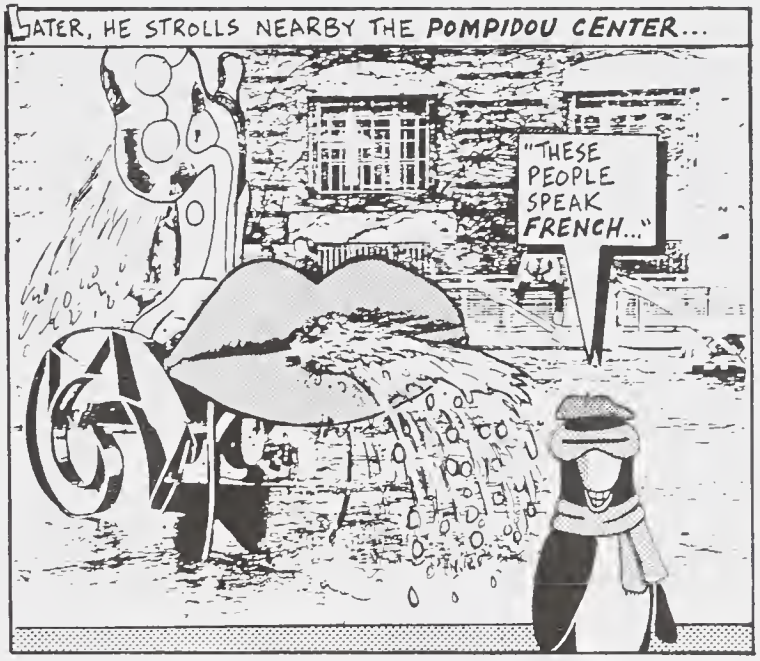
OF COURSE HERE IN *PARIS*, MOST PEOPLE ACTUALLY ***SPEAK*** FRENCH, WHICH PROBABLY ADDS TO THE SIGN'S ***EFFECTIVENESS***...

AFTER ALL, WHEN YOU PUT UP ONE OF THESE SIGNS IN AMERICA, WHAT ARE YOU ***THINKING***? THAT SOMEONE STUPID ENOUGH TO BLOCK YOUR DRIVEWAY WILL NONETHELESS BE ***BILINGUAL?***

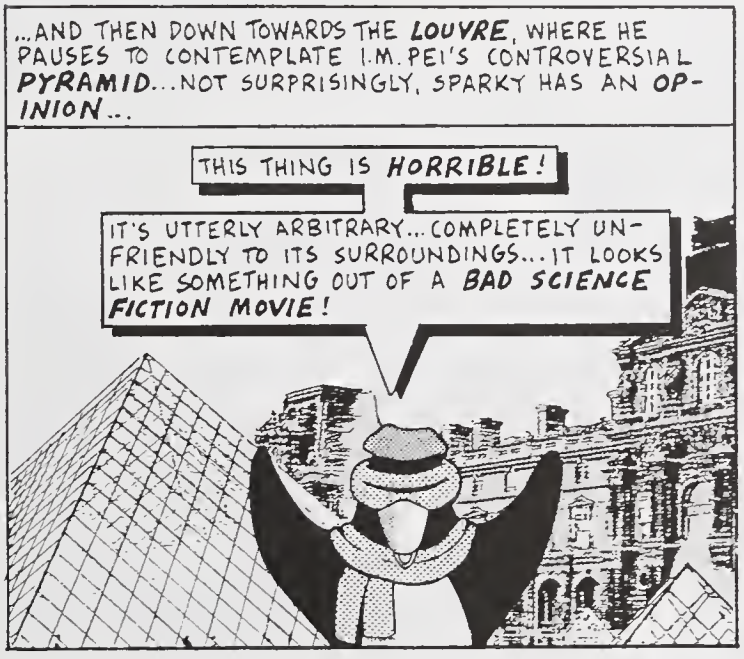


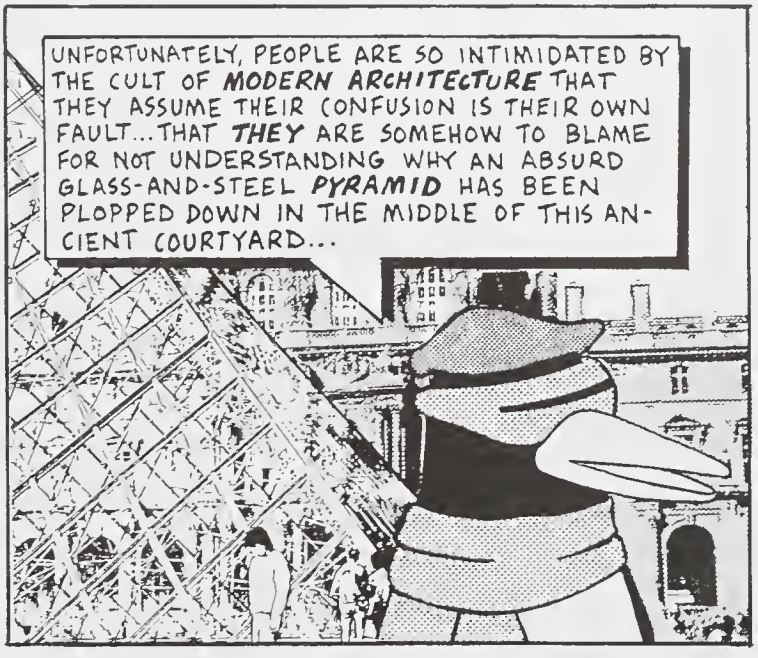
THE WANDERING PENGUIN NEXT SPENDS SEVERAL HOURS IN THE AMAZING ***MUSEE PICASSO***, WHERE HE GETS SOMEWHAT ***LOST*** IN HIS SURROUNDINGS...

LATER, HE STROLLS NEARBY THE ***POMPIDOU CENTER***...



...AND THEN DOWN TOWARDS THE ***LOUVRE***, WHERE HE PAUSES TO CONTEMPLATE I.M. PEI'S CONTROVERSIAL ***PYRAMID***...NOT SURPRISINGLY, SPARKY HAS AN ***OPINION***...



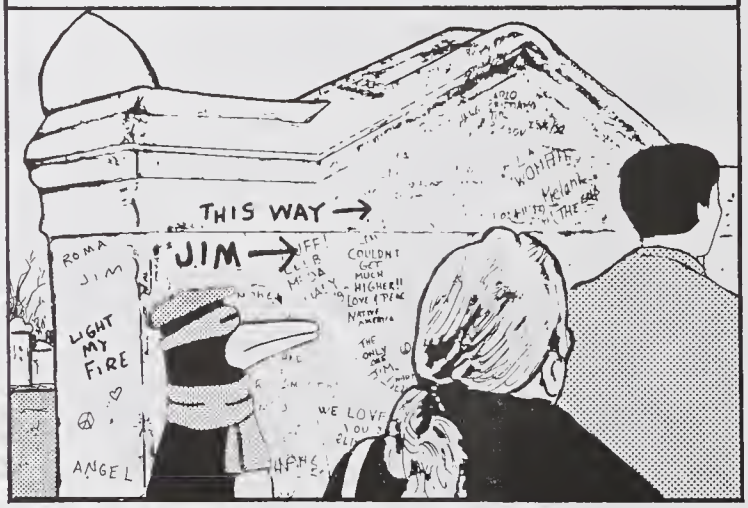


SPARKY'S NEXT STOP IS THE CRUMBLING, MOODY CEMETARY, ***PÈRE-LACHAISE***...HOME TO SUCH NOTABLES AS COLETTE, OSCAR WILDE, GEORGES SEURAT, EDITH PIAF AND GERTRUDE STEIN...

SPACE IS LIMITED IN PÈRE-LACHAISE...OLDER GRAVES WHICH ARE NO LONGER VISITED ARE ***DUG UP***... THE BONES ARE PILED INTO A SMALL BOX AND STORED IN A NEARBY CATACOMB...THUS, WALKING THROUGH THE CEMETARY, ONE IS REPEATEDLY CONFRONTED WITH THE SOMEWHAT DISTURBING SIGHT OF ***OPEN TOMBS***--OFTEN AS NOT BEING USED AS ***GARBAGE RECEPTACLES***...

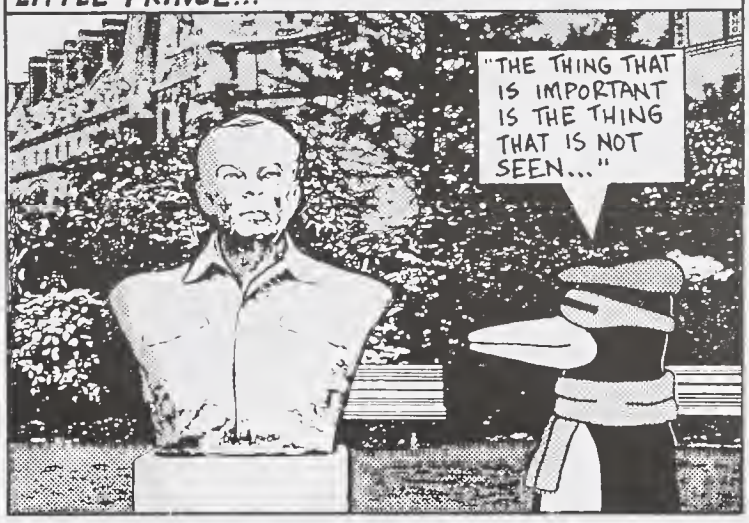
THE TOMBS THEMSELVES ARE EVENTUALLY BROKEN UP AND HAULED AWAY IN ***DUMPSTERS***--MAKING ROOM FOR FRESHER, ***PAYING*** CUSTOMERS...THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR GRAVE WILL SERVE AS A LASTING ***MEMORIAL*** TO THEIR TIME ON THIS EARTH WOULD DO BETTER TO BE BURIED ***ELSEWHERE***...

AS IF THE THREAT OF DISINTERMENT WEREN'T ENOUGH, THE TOMBS OF MANY BURIED IN PÈRE-LACHAISE MUST ALSO SUFFER THE INDIGNITY OF SERVING AS GRAFFITI-COVERED ***SIGNPOSTS*** MARKING THE PATH TO ONE OFT-VISITED GRAVE--THAT OF ***JIM MORRISON***...



HEADSTONES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY ARE COVERED WITH THE SOPHOMORIC NIHILISM OF DOORS LYRICS... "MOURNERS" SIT ON ADJACENT TOMBS, SMOKING GRASS AND DRINKING BEER... TAPE DECKS BLAST OUT DOORS SONGS AT FULL VOLUME... ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MORRISON'S DEATH, OVERZEALOUS FANS HAD TO BE CONTAINED BY ***RIOT POLICE***...

THE NEXT DAY SPARKY PAUSES IN A SMALL PARK AT THE EDGE OF LES INVALIDES... UPON LEAVING, HE DISCOVERS IT IS DEDICATED TO ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY--A FRENCH WAR HERO BEST KNOWN AS AUTHOR OF ***THE LITTLE PRINCE***...



NEAR INVALIDES, SPARKY DISCOVERS A LARGE GATHERING OF ANGRY FRENCH FARMERS PROTESTING AMERICAN G.A.T.T. TREATY DEMANDS... FIRECRACKERS ARE EXPLODING... AN IMPASSIONED SPEAKER IS INCITING THE CROWD... AND SPARK HAS A STRONG FEELING THAT IT WOULD BE WISE NOT TO WAVE HIS PASSPORT IN THE AIR...

HE BEATS A HASTY RETREAT... AND, DISCOVERING HE IS CAUGHT BETWEEN A HORDE OF ENRAGED FARMERS AND A LINE OF FRENCH POLICE IN FULL RIOT GEAR BLOCKING THE PONT ALEXANDRE, DOES THE ONLY SENSIBLE THING--

--ASKS A PASSER-BY TO TAKE HIS ***PHOTOGRAPH***...

THE POLICE LET HIM BY, AND HE CROSSES TO THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES, WHERE HE HAPPENS UPON A TEMPORARY OUTDOOR INSTALLATION OF WONDERFUL, WHIMSICAL OVERSIZE SCULPTURES BY FERNANDO BOTERO... SPARKY WANDERS THROUGH A SURREAL TWILIGHT AMIDST GROUPS OF SCHOOLCHILDREN, AS FIREWORKS GO OFF IN THE DISTANCE AND POLICEMEN WITH SUBMACHINE GUNS STAND ALERTLY NEARBY... HE IS, SOMEHOW, ***CONTENT***...

KA-BOUM!

AH, PAREE...

OF COURSE, ONE CANNOT LEAVE PARIS WITHOUT VISITING THE ***EIFFEL TOWER***... AT THE TOWER'S BASE, A SIGN PATIENTLY EXPLAINS -- IN ENGLISH -- THAT PAYMENT CAN ONLY BE MADE IN ***FRENCH FRANCS***...

SOMETIMES SPARKY ***DESPAIRS*** FOR HIS COUNTRYMEN.

WHUDDYA ***MEAN*** YOU DON'T TAKE REAL MONEY?!

SIGH...

MUCH TOO SOON, OUR ROVING PENGUIN'S VACATION COMES TO AN END, AND HE AGAIN FINDS HIMSELF ENDURING THE MISERIES OF AIR TRAVEL... WITH, OF COURSE, A LITTLE HELP FROM THE VIDEOTAPED ***AEROBICS INSTRUCTOR***...

OKAY -- NOW TWITCH YOUR ***LEFT THUMB***! ***GOOD!***

CHAPTER 11

FIN...

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THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER LOOK AT ***HOW THE NEWS WORKS***...FIRST, THE MEDIA REPORT THE DAY'S OFFICIAL PRONOUNCEMENTS, GIVING SELF-SERVING LIES AND SPIN-CONTROL EFFORTS THE LEGITIMACY OF ACTUAL NEWS...

THE PRESIDENT TODAY BLAMED THE FALTERING ECONOMY ON FANATICAL COCAINE-CRAZED LIBYAN TERRORISTS WORKING SECRETLY TO SABOTAGE OUR FREE-MARKET SYSTEM!

POLLSTERS THEN PROCEED TO ASK A SMALL GROUP OF PEOPLE A SET OF QUESTIONS CAREFULLY WORDED TO PRODUCE A DESIRED RESULT, WITH NO MARGIN FOR AMBIGUITY...

WOULD YOU BE AFRAID IF FANATICAL COCAINE-CRAZED LIBYAN TERRORISTS WERE IN YOUR BASEMENT WITH AN ATOMIC BOMB? YES OR NO?

WELL-- *YES!*

THE RESULTS OF THESE POLLS ARE THEN REPORTED ON THE NEWS, CREATING A SELF-FULFILLING SENSE OF PUBLIC CONCERN OVER AN IMAGINARY THREAT TO THE REPUBLIC...

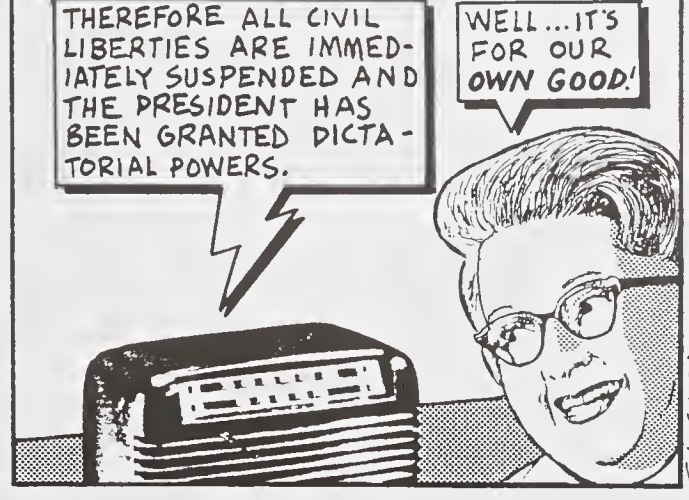
--A NEW POLL SHOWS THAT 94% OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED OF COCAINE-CRAZED LIBYANS!

GOODNESS--HOW VERY *ALARMING!* SOMEONE SHOULD *DO* SOMETHING!

...WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION THEN USES TO JUSTIFY ACTIONS THAT IN NO WAY BENEFIT THE CITIZENRY IT PURPORTS TO SERVE.

THEREFORE ALL CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE IMMEDIATELY SUSPENDED AND THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN GRANTED DICTATORIAL POWERS.

WELL...IT'S FOR OUR *OWN GOOD!*



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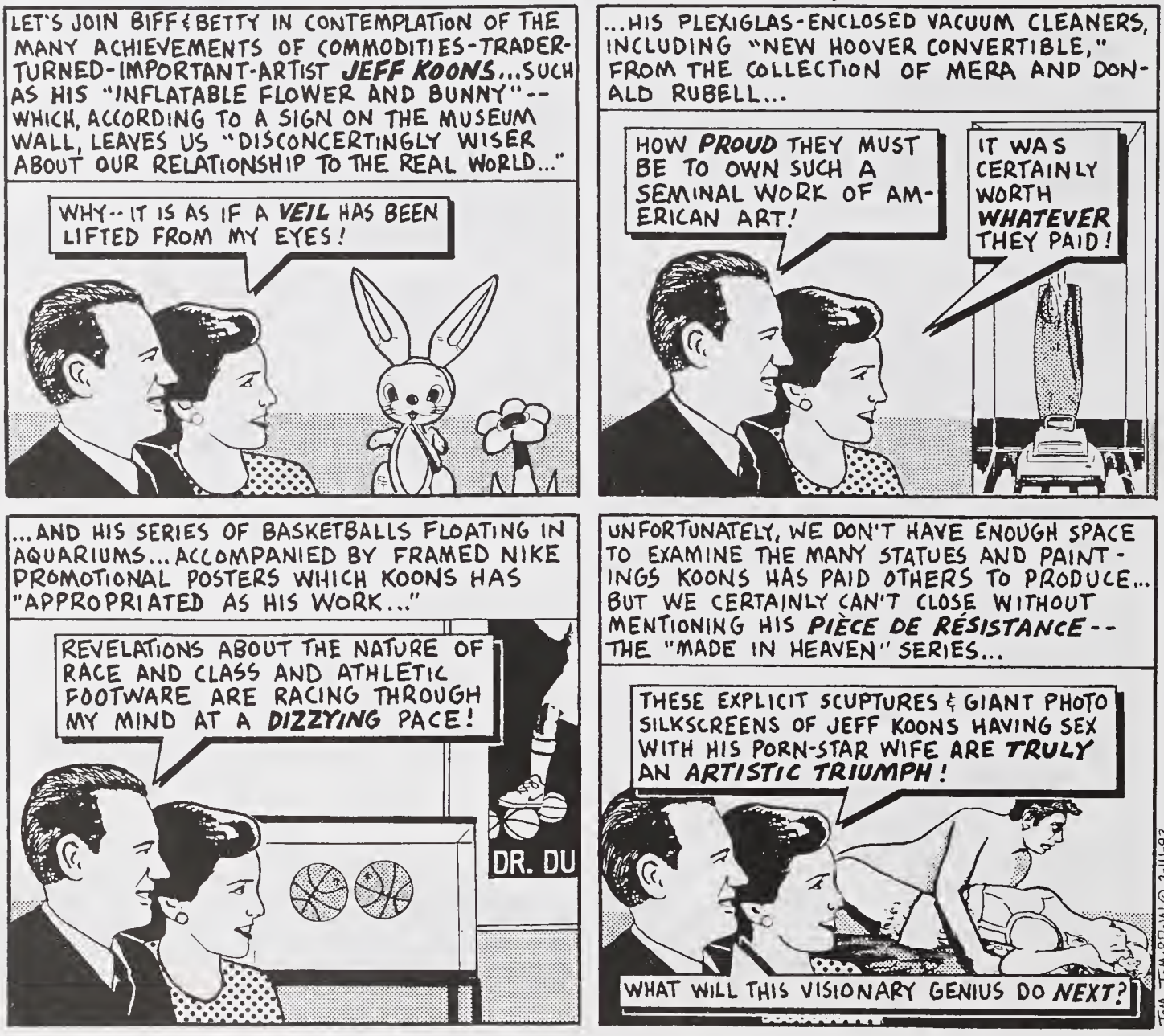
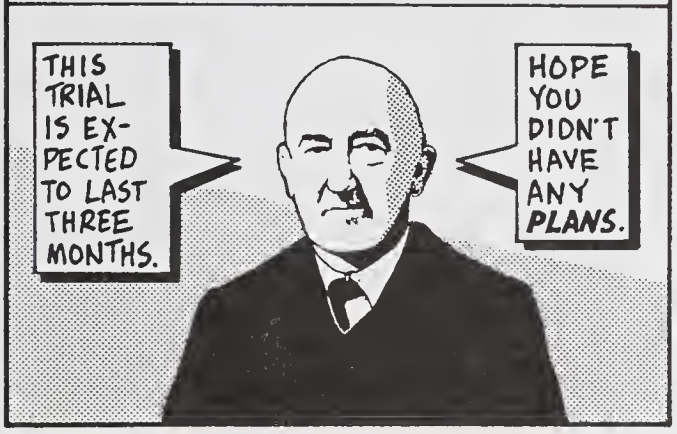
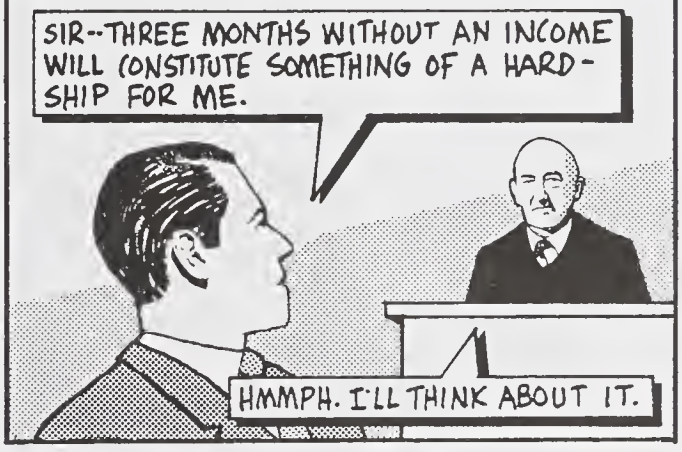


THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

SOONER OR LATER, THE NOTICE ARRIVES IN THE MAIL... YOU'VE BEEN SUMMONED FOR ***JURY DUTY!*** NOW, IF YOUR EMPLOYER WILL PAY YOUR SALARY DURING YOUR SERVICE--OR YOU ARE INDEPENDENTLY WEALTHY--THIS SHOULD, AT WORST, BE AN ***INCONVENIENCE***...

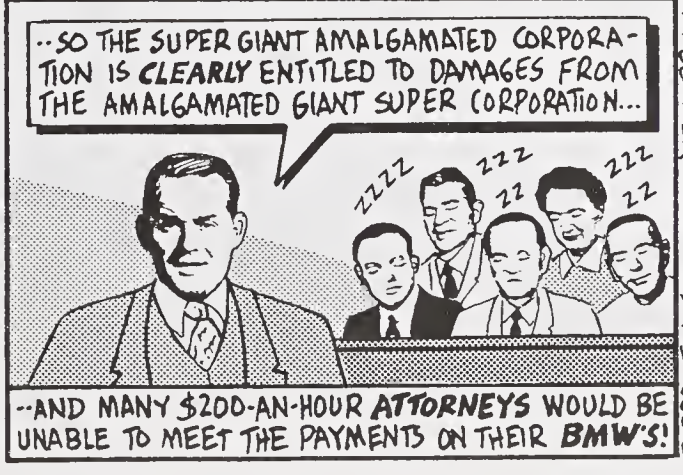


IF, HOWEVER, YOU WILL NOT BE COMPENSATED FOR YOUR ENFORCED ABSENCE FROM WORK--AND THE GENEROUS $6 A DAY PAID TO JURORS ISN'T QUITE ENOUGH TO COVER YOUR BILLS--YOU'LL HAVE TO PLEAD YOUR CASE BEFORE A ***JUDGE***...



IF THE JUDGE DOES NOT CONSIDER INCIPIENT HOMELESSNESS A SUFFICIENT REASON TO EXCUSE YOU, YOU MAY TRY TO DISQUALIFY YOURSELF DURING THE JURY SELECTION PROCESS BY HAVING ***VERY STRONG OPINIONS***...

FINALLY, IF THIS FAILS AND YOU ARE STILL SELECTED...WELL, JUST REMEMBER: WITHOUT THE ***INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE*** OF JURY DUTY, MANY ***IMPORTANT DISPUTES*** WOULD NEVER BE RESOLVED--



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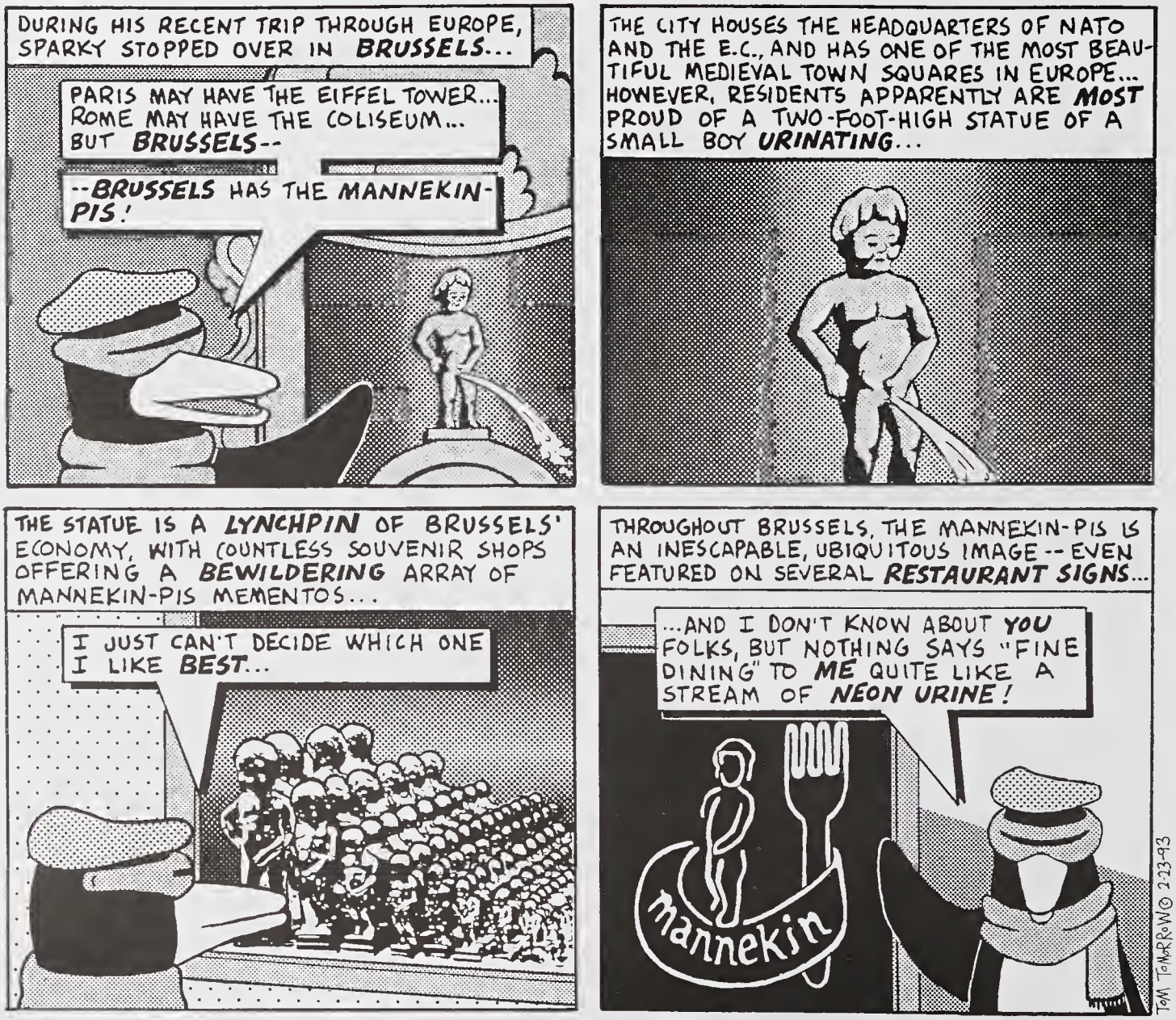


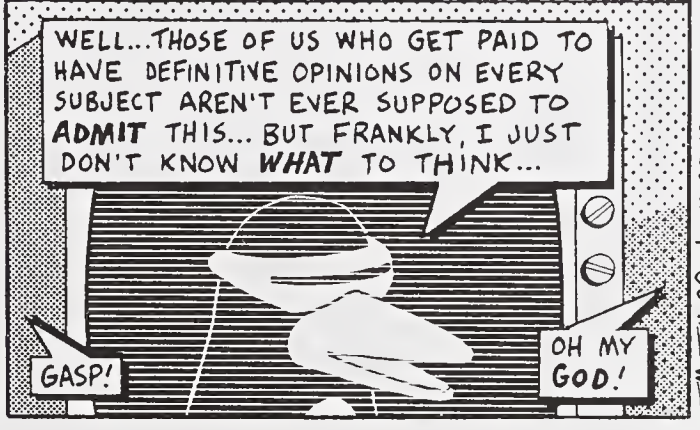
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

THE EVENING NEWS PRESENTS SOMALIA AS A SIMPLE MORALITY PLAY... IN WHICH STARVING VICTIMS ARE RESCUED FROM EVIL WARLORDS BY A BENEVOLENT UNITED STATES MILITARY...

REALITY IS SOMEWHAT *MURKIER*... THE CRISIS IS LARGELY A LEGACY OF THE COLD WAR, BROUGHT ON BY SUPERPOWER SUPPORT FOR REPREHENSIBLE *DICTATORSHIPS*, MASSIVE *ARMS SHIPMENTS*, AND AGRICULTURAL POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGED CASH-CROP *EXPORTS* AT THE EXPENSE OF *SELF-SUSTENANCE*...

THE SUBSEQUENT FAMINE IS NOT ONLY *TRAGIC*, IT IS *OBSCENE*... PARTICULARLY WHEN ONE CONSIDERS THAT ENOUGH GRAIN IS ACTUALLY GROWN EACH YEAR TO *EASILY* FEED EVERY HUMAN ON THE *PLANET*... BUT UNFORTUNATELY, MUCH OF THAT GRAIN IS INSTEAD USED TO FATTEN *LIVESTOCK* SO THAT CITIZENS OF THE DEVELOPED WORLD CAN CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR *BIG MACS*...

STILL... EVEN IF NONE OF THESE UNDERLYING FACTORS ARE ADDRESSED, THE FACT REMAINS THAT THIS INTERVENTION *WILL* SAVE SOME LIVES... TO HELP US SORT OUT THIS CONFUSING SITUATION, LET'S SEE WHAT OUR RESIDENT PUNDIT *SPARKY* HAS TO SAY...



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FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS, THE SUPPOSEDLY POPULIST ***DEMOCRATS*** HAVE WORKED HAND-IN-HAND WITH THE REPUBLICANS TO ***DRASTICALLY*** REDUCE UPPER-INCOME TAX RATES...*

YUP! WASHINGTON IS RUN ***BY*** THE RICH, ***FOR*** THE RICH! THAT'S WHY ***I*** VOTED FOR ***PEROT!***

WAIT A MINUTE...

BOSS IN '96

* FOR MORE ON THIS BIPARTISAN BETRAYAL, SEE *WHO WILL TELL THE PEOPLE?* BY WILLIAM GREIDER... ALSO, *AMERICA: WHAT WENT WRONG?* BY BARLETT & STEELE...

HOWEVER, ANYONE WHO NOW SUGGESTS THAT SOMETHING MORE THAN A ***TOKEN*** TAX INCREASE FOR THE RICH MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA FACES THE ***SCORN*** AND ***CONTEMPT*** OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA PUNDITS...

IF WE WANT TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT, WE SHOULD INSIST THAT THE WEALTHY PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES!

DON'T BE ***ABSURD!*** ***THAT*** WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD! YOU SEE, ***THERE AREN'T ENOUGH RICH PEOPLE!***

IT'S TRUE THAT THE WEALTHY ARE IN THE MINORITY... ACCORDING TO THE FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD, ***86%*** OF THE INDIVIDUAL NET FINANCIAL WEALTH IN AMERICA IS OWNED BY A MERE ***10%*** OF THE POPULATION... ADDITIONALLY, THE WEALTHY ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY REPRESENTED IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, AS THE RECENT "NANNYGATE" FLAPS HAVE MADE CLEAR...

...GOOD HELP IS ***SO*** HARD TO FIND THESE DAYS!

MANY OF THOSE AFOREMENTIONED ***PUNDITS*** ARE IN THE TOP INCOME BRACKET AS WELL... UNSURPRISINGLY, THEY ARE CURRENTLY SPENDING MUCH OF THEIR TIME EAGERLY LECTURING AVERAGE AMERICANS--THE 90% OF THE POPULATION WHICH OWNS THE REMAINING 14% OF THE NATION'S WEALTH--ON THE NEED FOR ***AUSTERITY...***

WE'VE ALL GOT TO DO WHAT WE ***CAN!*** I THINK ***WE*** SHOULD SELL OUR ***FURNITURE*** TO HELP PAY OFF THE DEBT!

GOOD IDEA! SLEEPING ON THE FLOOR WILL BE ***UNPLEASANT...*** BUT WE ***ALL*** MUST BE WILLING TO ***SACRIFICE!***

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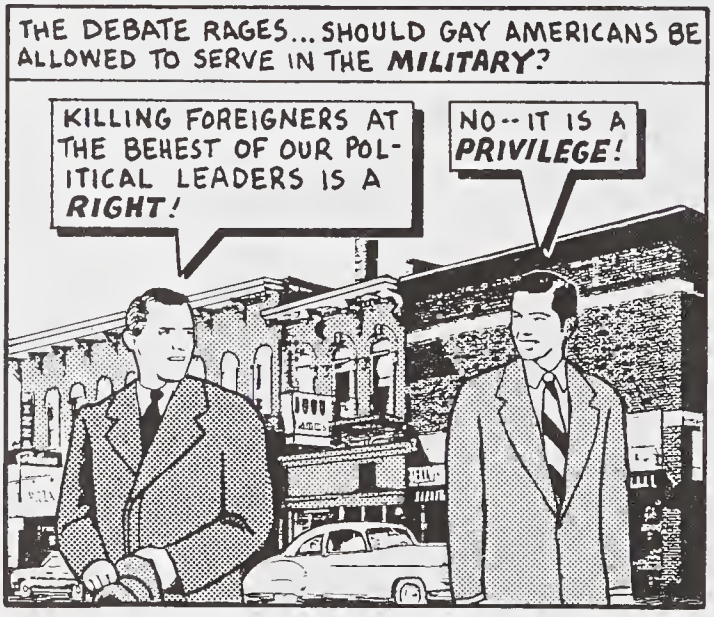

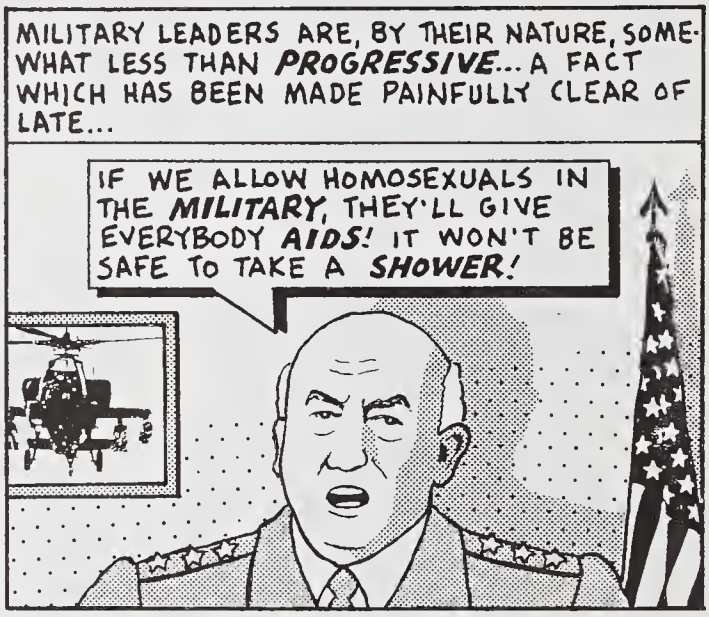

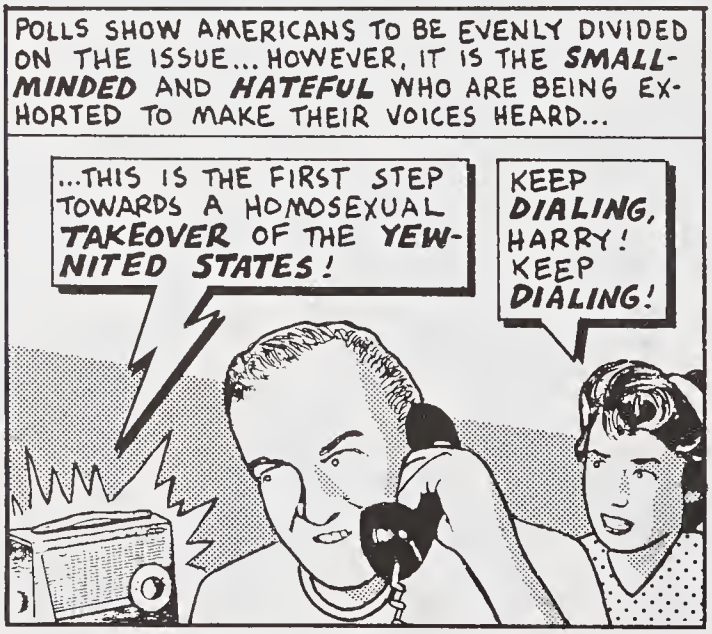

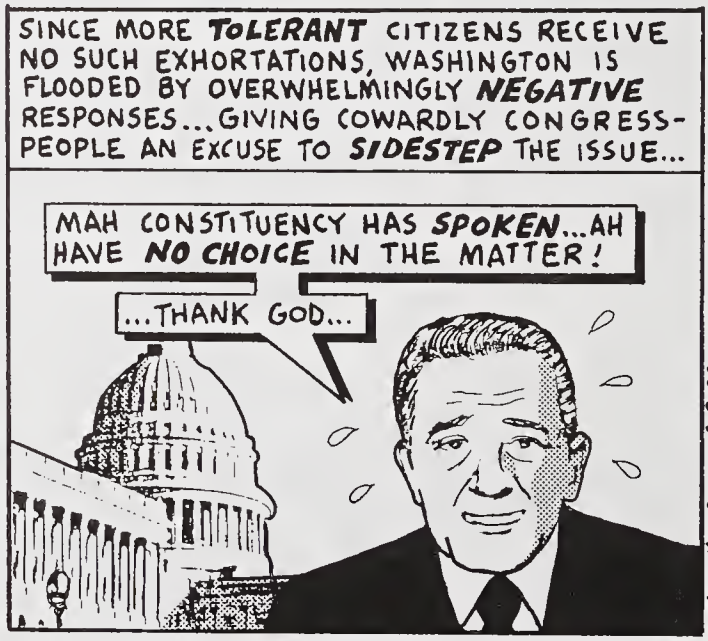

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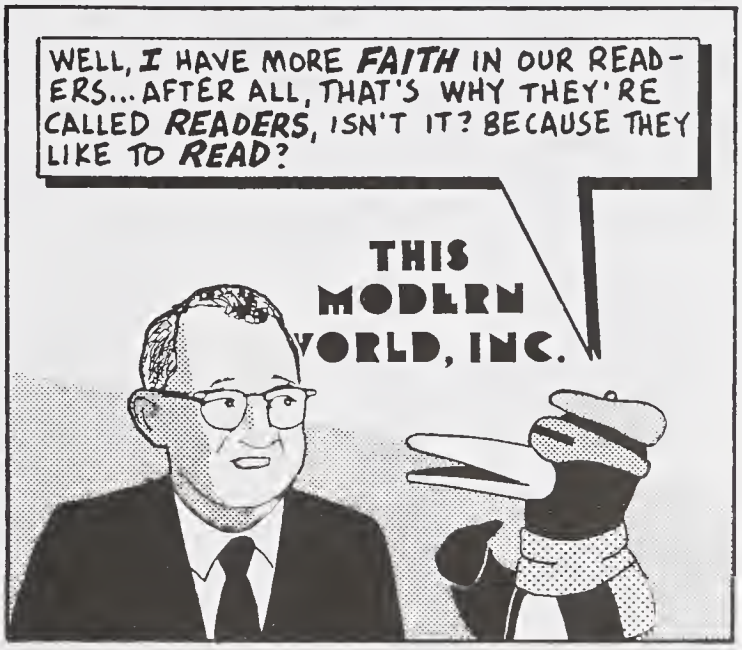


A12

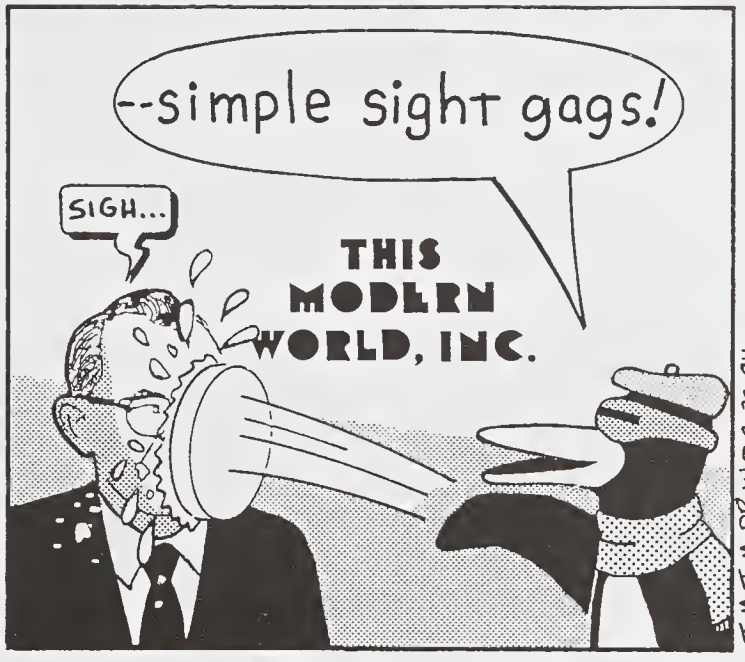
Penguin Defends Verbosity

(Continued from Page A1)

Mr. Penguin said, "I mean, if you take that line of reasoning to its logical extreme, people wouldn't want any articles or reviews or features in their newspaper either! They'd want nothing but photographs and colorful charts!"

"Now, Sparky," interjected the cartoon's business manager, Bob Friendly, "we don't want to offend our editors! Maybe we could just try it their way — it might even make our strip a little more marketable!"

"So what you're saying is that you think we should make an effort to be more accessible," replied Mr. Penguin. The seemingly beleaguered Mr. Friendly responded enthusiastically in the affirmative, and Mr. Penguin continued, "I think I understand. Instead of all this dialogue, you'd rather see more —



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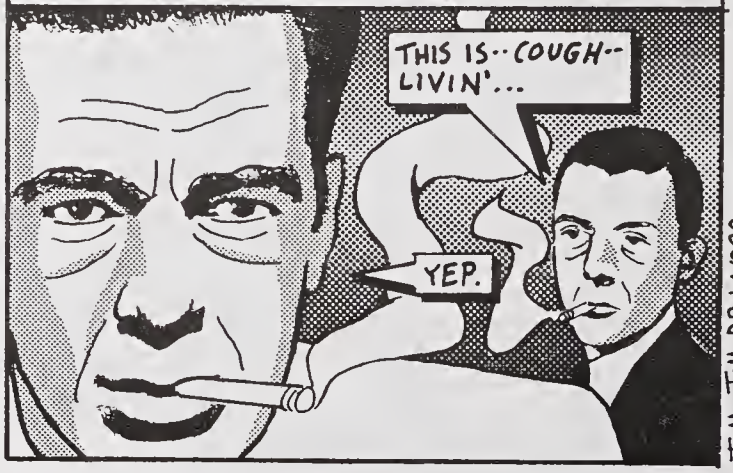
HEY, CITIZENS! HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT THE ENORMOUS DEBT WE ALL OWE THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE ***ADVERTISING PROFESSION?*** AFTER ALL, IF NOT FOR THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS, HOW WOULD WE ***EVER*** BE ABLE TO CHOOSE THE MASS-PRODUCED CONSUMER ITEMS BEST SUITED TO OUR ***INDIVIDUAL LIFESTYLES?***

IF NOT FOR BIG-BUDGET ***COLA ADS,*** HOW COULD WE POSSIBLY SELECT THE CARBONATED, CHEMICALLY-ENHANCED BEVERAGE THAT'S RIGHT FOR ***US?***

IF THERE WERE NO ***FASHION ADVERTISEMENTS,*** NONE OF US WOULD KNOW WHAT STYLE OF ***CLOTHING*** WE SHOULD PURCHASE IN ORDER TO BEST EXPRESS OUR ***INNER SELVES!***

AND OF COURSE, WITHOUT CONSTANT EXPOSURE TO ADVERTISING IMAGERY, HOW WOULD THE SMOKERS AMONG US EVER HAVE REALIZED HOW ***ENJOYABLE*** ADDICTION TO A CARCINOGENIC SUBSTANCE COULD ***BE?***



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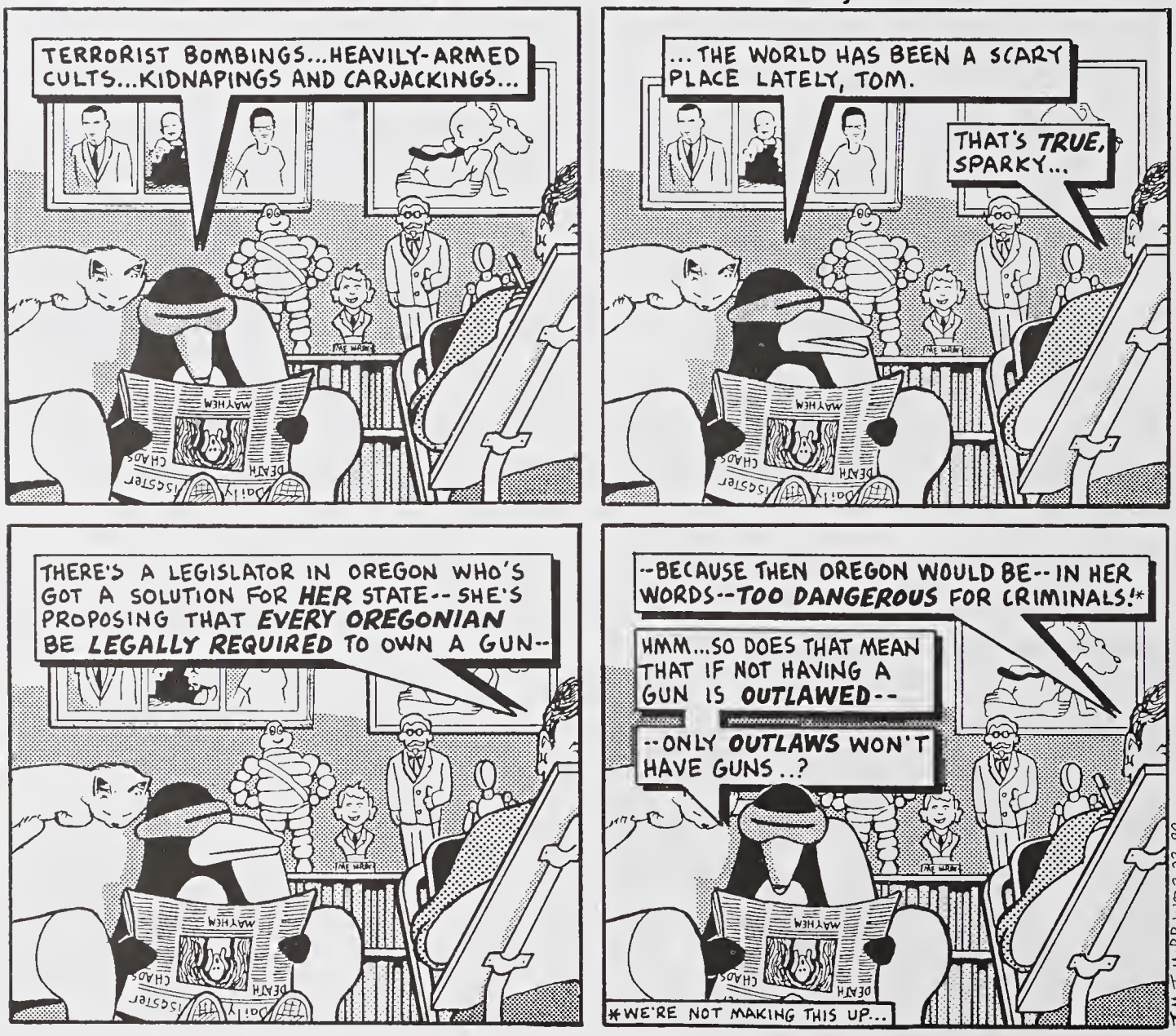

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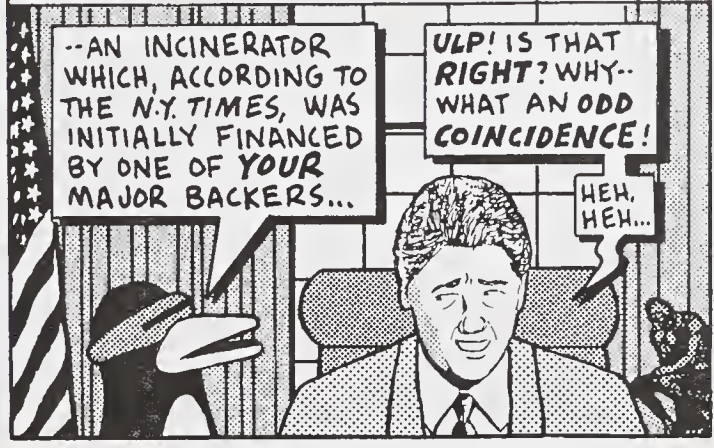
CONSIDERING THAT IN 1980, THE TOP TAX RATE WAS **70%**, CLINTON'S TAX HIKES ARE RELATIVELY **MODEST**... STILL, SOME PANIC-STRICKEN CONSERVATIVES SEEM TO BELIEVE A **SOCIALIST TAKEOVER** OF THE **UNITED STATES** HAS **BEGUN**...

THE MEDICAL INDUSTRY CONSIDERS CLINTON A WILD-EYED **RADICAL** FOR PROPOSING THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD SOMEHOW INTERVENE TO GUARANTEE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR **EVERYONE**...

PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS CLAIM CLINTON'S CRAZY, LEFT-WING NOTION OF REGULATING DRUG PRICES WOULD HAVE **DISASTROUS** CONSEQUENCES...

OF COURSE, CLINTON'S CONSERVATIVE CRITICS **WERE** SILENT ON **ONE** RECENT OCCASION-- WHEN HE APPROVED THE STARTUP OF A CONTROVERSIAL TOXIC WASTE INCINERATOR IN OHIO... DESPITE PROMISES TO THE CONTRARY BY **AL GORE**...



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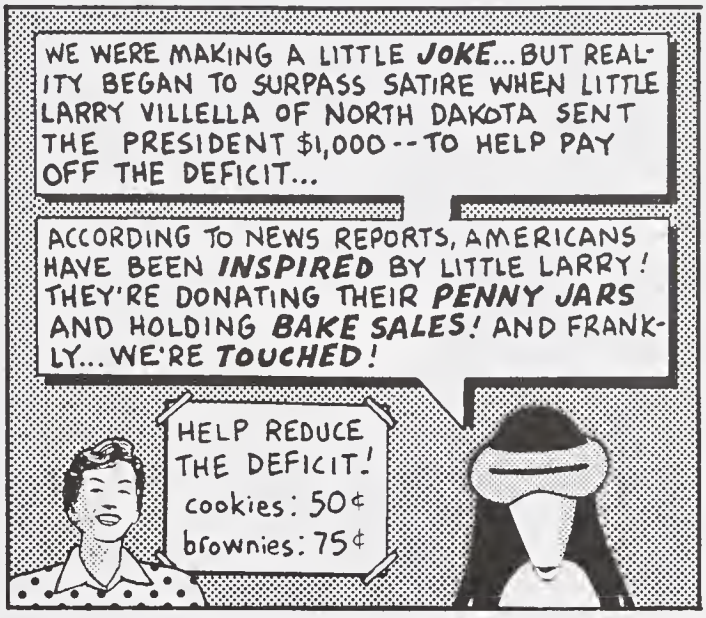
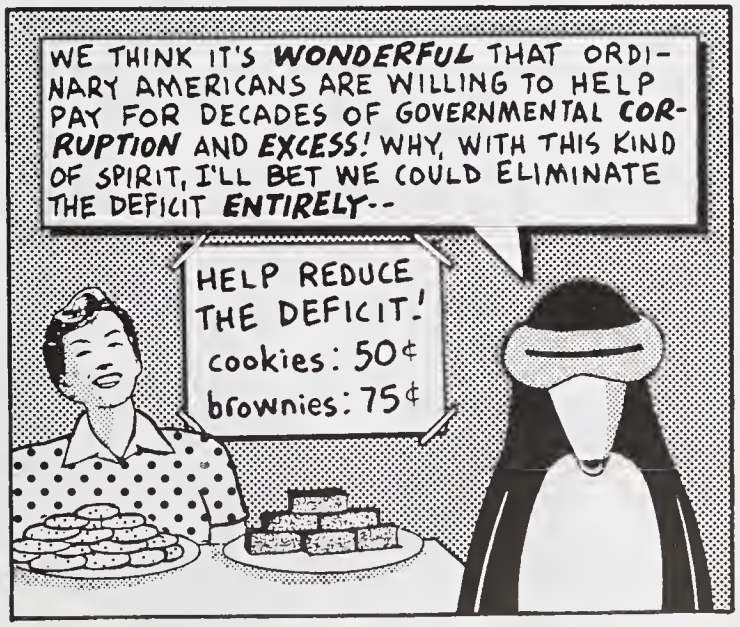
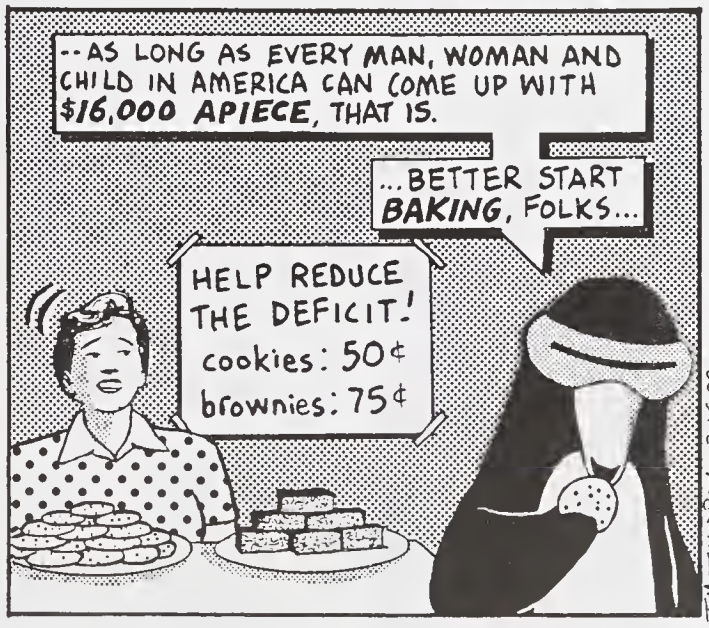






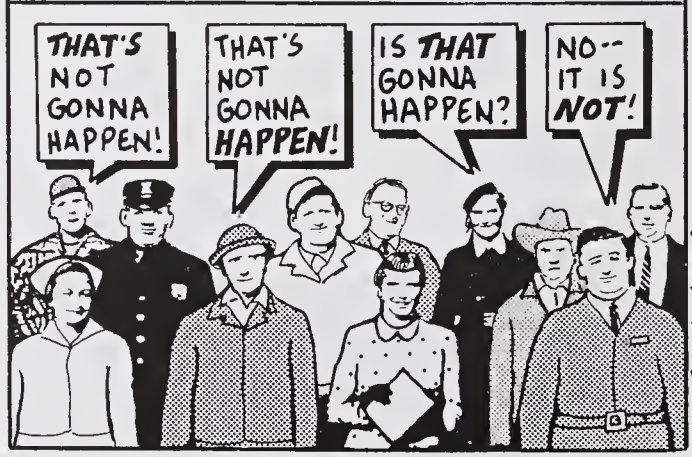
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

GOOD **NEWS**, CITIZENS! NOT ONLY IS THERE A NEW CLINT EASTWOOD **MOVIE**--THERE'S ALSO A NEW CLINT EASTWOOD **CATCHPHRASE**! IN THE TRADITION OF SUCH **HALLOWED CLASSICS** AS "**MAKE MY DAY**™!" AND "**FEEL LUCKY, PUNK**™?" COMES THIS NEW DECLARATIVE:

THE CATCHPHRASE IS **GUARANTEED** TO SWEEP THE NATION! AFTER ALL, IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE RESULT OF **MONTHS** OF BRAINSTORMING BY **MARKETING EXPERTS**!

IT'S GOING TO BE THE SUBJECT OF **COUNTLESS** "TREND" STORIES IN THE MONTHS AHEAD--PUBLICISTS ARE WORKING **OVERTIME** TO SEE TO **THAT**!

IF THE MOVIE STUDIO HAS ITS **WAY**, THE CATCHPHRASE WILL EVENTUALLY BECOME SUCH AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR DAILY LIVES THAT WE'LL WONDER HOW WE EVER COMMUNICATED **WITHOUT** IT...



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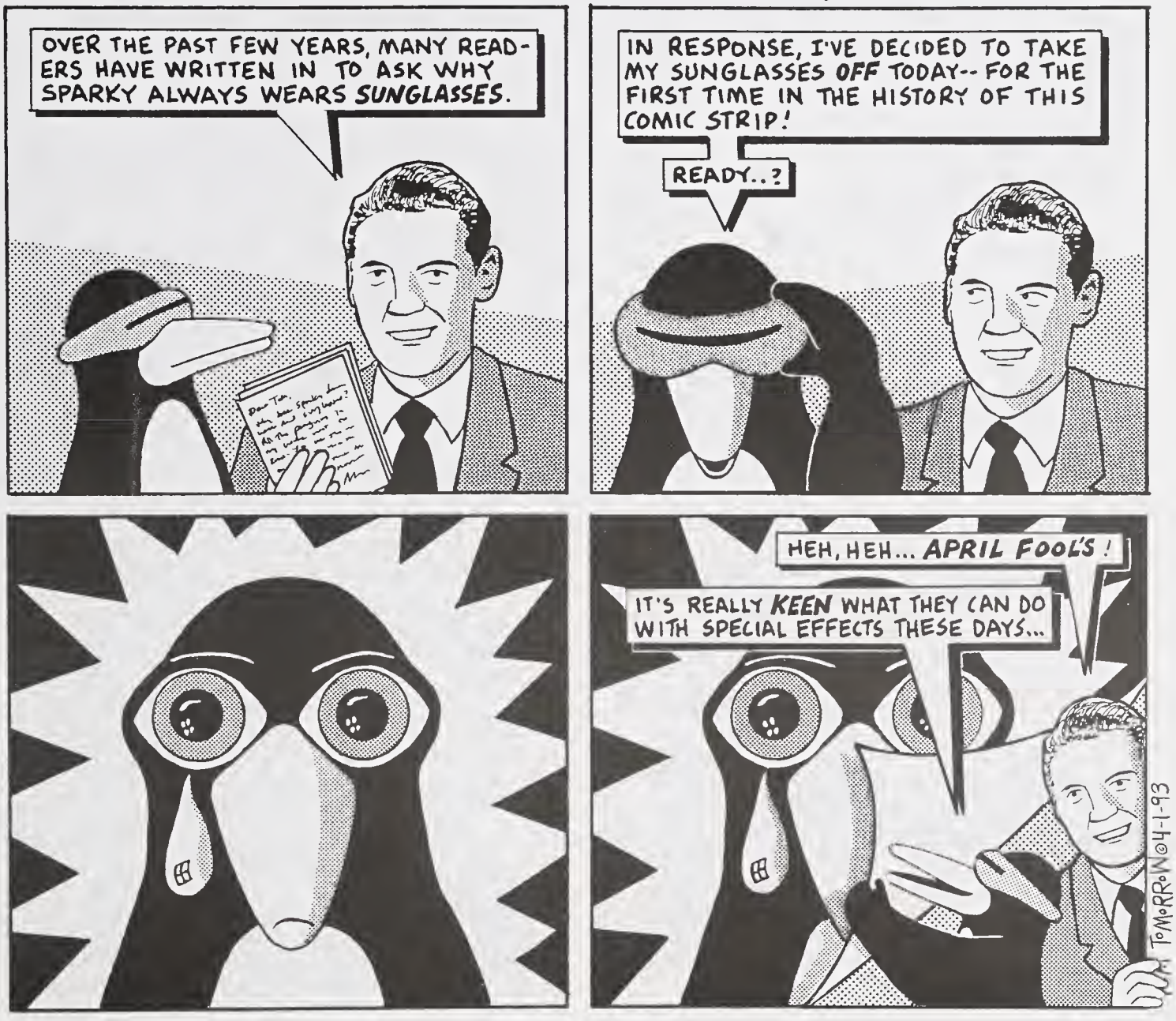

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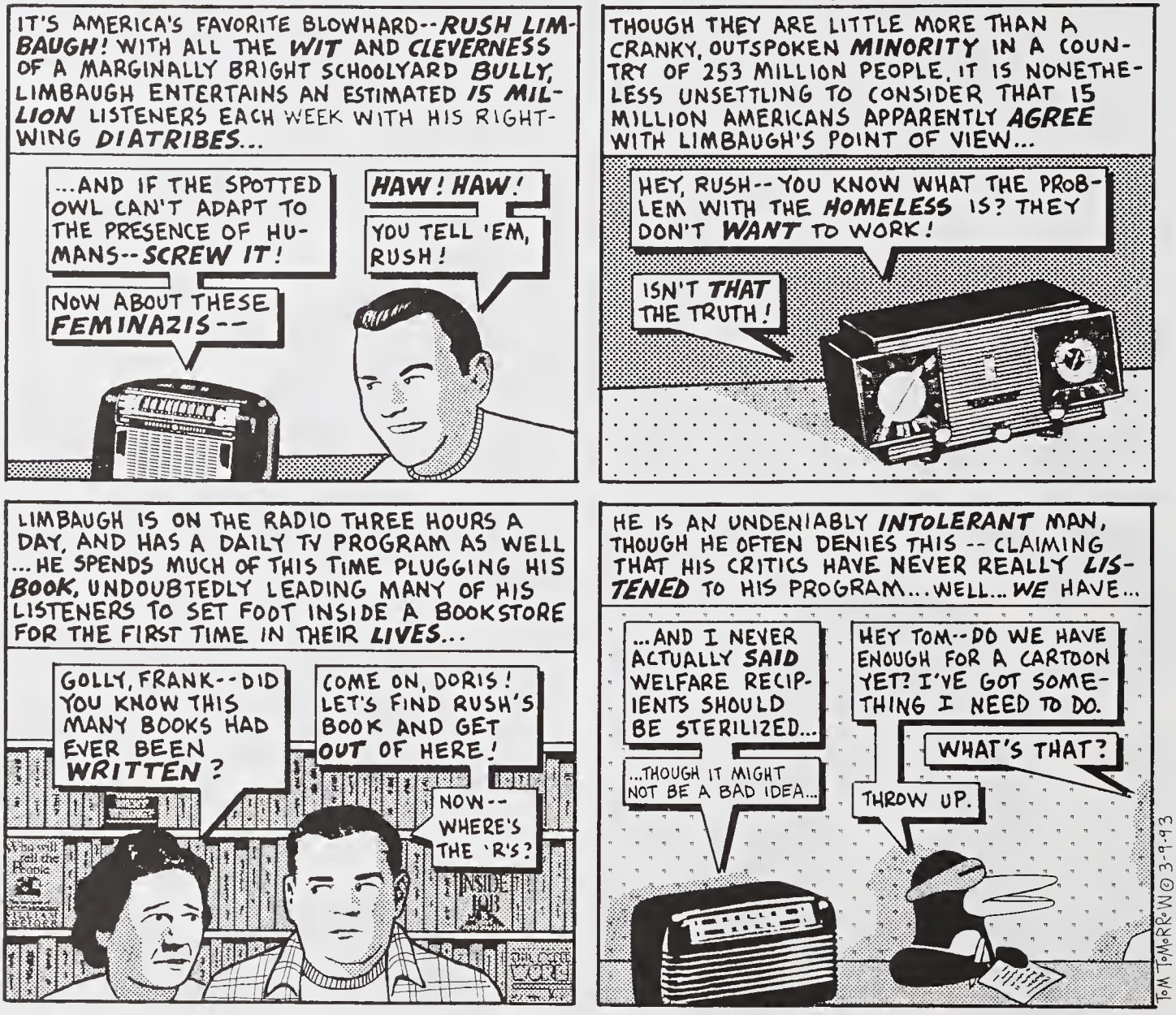

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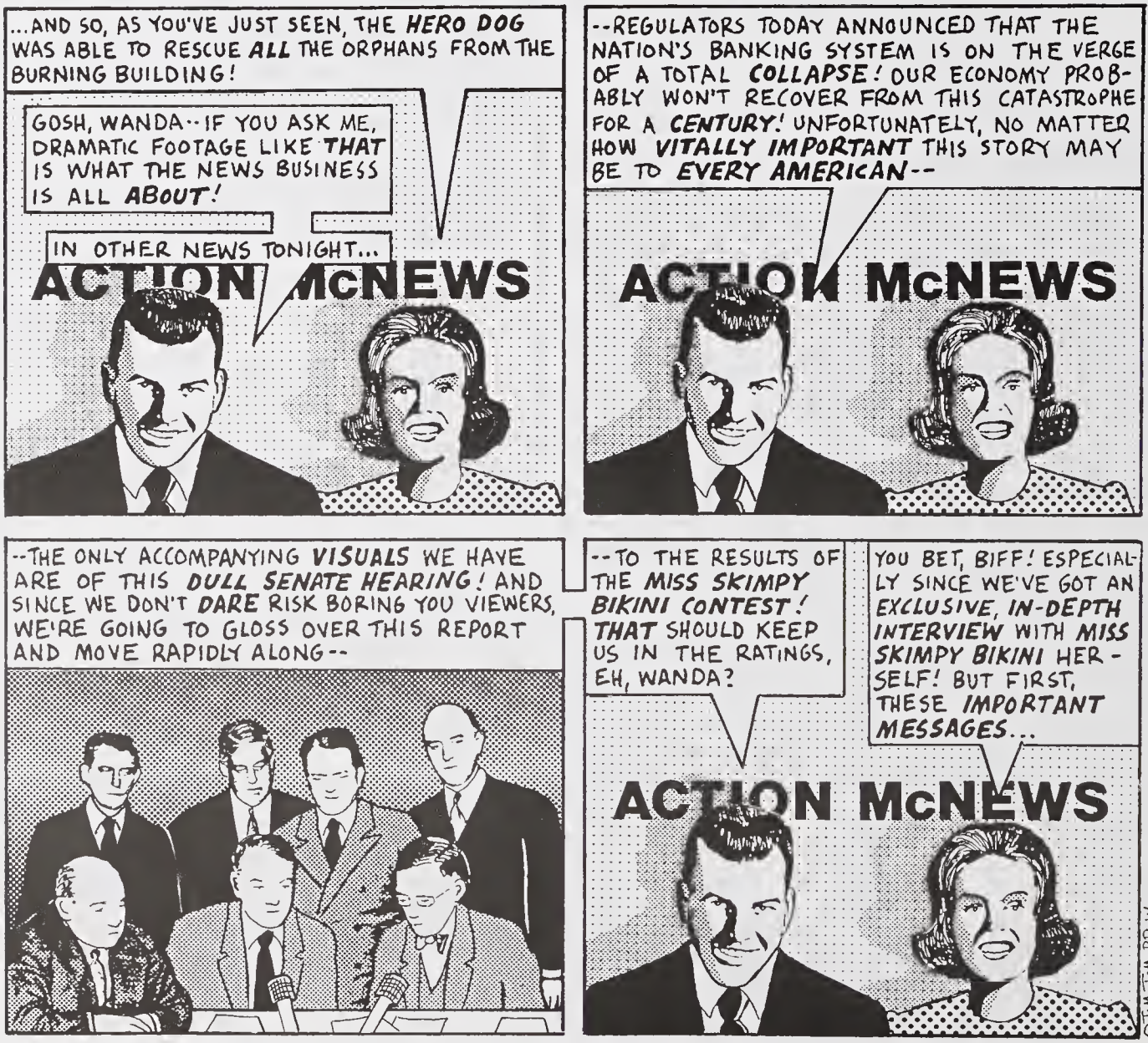

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

IN POLITICS, REALITY SEEMS TO BE LARGELY A MATTER OF *PERSPECTIVE*.

AS ISSUES ARE DEBATED, ALL SIDES STRUGGLE TO APPEAR *OBJECTIVE*--ESCHEWING EMOTIONAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE SEEMING RATIONALITY OF *NUMBERS* AND *STATISTICS*.

ECONOMISTS ARE MASTERS OF THIS, PASSING OFF THEIR OPINIONATED *GUESSWORK* AS A *SCIENCE*...IGNORING THE FACT THAT TO *TRULY* COMPREHEND THE VAST WEB OF INTERDEPENDENCY WHICH CONSTITUTES OUR ECONOMY, YOU'D HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT IN THE PROBLEMS *OF*, AND INTERACTIONS *BETWEEN*:

advertising agencies, airlines, appliance makers, architects, attorneys, automobile companies, bail bondsmen, bakers, banks, barkeeps, beauticians, bicycle makers, bookstores, bottlers, breweries, carpet dealers, cartoonists, chimneysweeps, chiropracters, computer companies, concrete mixers, construction companies, copy shops, delicatessans, dentists, doctors, dry cleaners, electricia[illegible]ineers, farmers, florists, funeral homes, fu[illegible]ers, graphic artists, grocers, hardware st[illegible] housepainters, hospitals, hotels, insu[illegible] investment bankers, jewelers, landscape[illegible] lumber companies, mac[illegible]azine[illegible] movers, movie studio[illegible]il[illegible] pticians, pawnbrokers[illegible]phot[illegible] and movers, picture fra[illegible]rs, [illegible]s, printers, radio sta[illegible]ors, [illegible] etailers, roofers, used car dealers, [illegible]ils, television networks, tempora[illegible] manufacturers,

ALMOST EVERY TOPIC OF PUBLIC DEBATE IS EQUALLY COMPLEX...NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL CAN *POSSIBLY* UNDERSTAND IT ALL...AND YET, THERE'S CERTAINLY NO SHORTAGE OF SELF-STYLED *EXPERTS* CLAIMING TO HAVE SIMPLE, DEFINITIVE *ANSWERS*...

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

SENSIBLE AMERICANS AGREE--"MANAGED COMPETITION" IS THE ONLY WAY TO REFORM OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM...

I PREFER MANAGED COMPETITION BECAUSE IT LEAVES THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY FIRMLY IN CONTROL!

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE HIGH QUALITY OF PERSONAL CARE TO BE PROVIDED BY THE PLAN'S GIGANTIC, INSURER-ORGANIZED, PROFIT-DRIVEN H.M.O.s!

THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE A CANADIAN-STYLE "SINGLE-PAYER" SYSTEM OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE--WHICH, MAINSTREAM PUNDITS EXPLAIN, COULDN'T POSSIBLY WORK HERE...

YOU SEE--WE DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY IN AMERICA!

YES--FOR INSTANCE, CANADIANS HAVE A LEAF ON THEIR FLAG--AND WE DO NOT!

ACCORDING TO A CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE STUDY, A CANADIAN-STYLE SYSTEM IN AMERICA WOULD PROVIDE UNIVERSAL COVERAGE AND SAVE $14 BILLION A YEAR... HOWEVER, SINCE IT WOULD ALSO ELIMINATE PRIVATE INSURERS, IT IS CONSIDERED "POLITICALLY UNFEASIBLE"...

--SINCE, APPARENTLY, THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS TO SERVE AS A WELFARE PROGRAM FOR THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY...

The New York Times

"MANAGED COMPETITION" IS UNWIELDY AND UNTESTED... HOWEVER, ITS PROPONENTS ARGUE IT IS THE ONLY PLAN WHICH WILL ALLOW PATIENTS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DOCTORS... WHICH IT WILL--WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF AN ENORMOUS, H.M.O.-STYLE BUREAUCRACY, THAT IS...

OKAY, SIR--YOU'VE GOT A CHOICE BETWEEN SEEING DR. JONES IN MARCH, 1994--OR DR. SMITH IN FEBRUARY, 1995.

NOW SERVING 31

TAKE A NUMBER 1962

SIR? ARE YOU STILL THERE?

TOM TOMORROW 6-15-93

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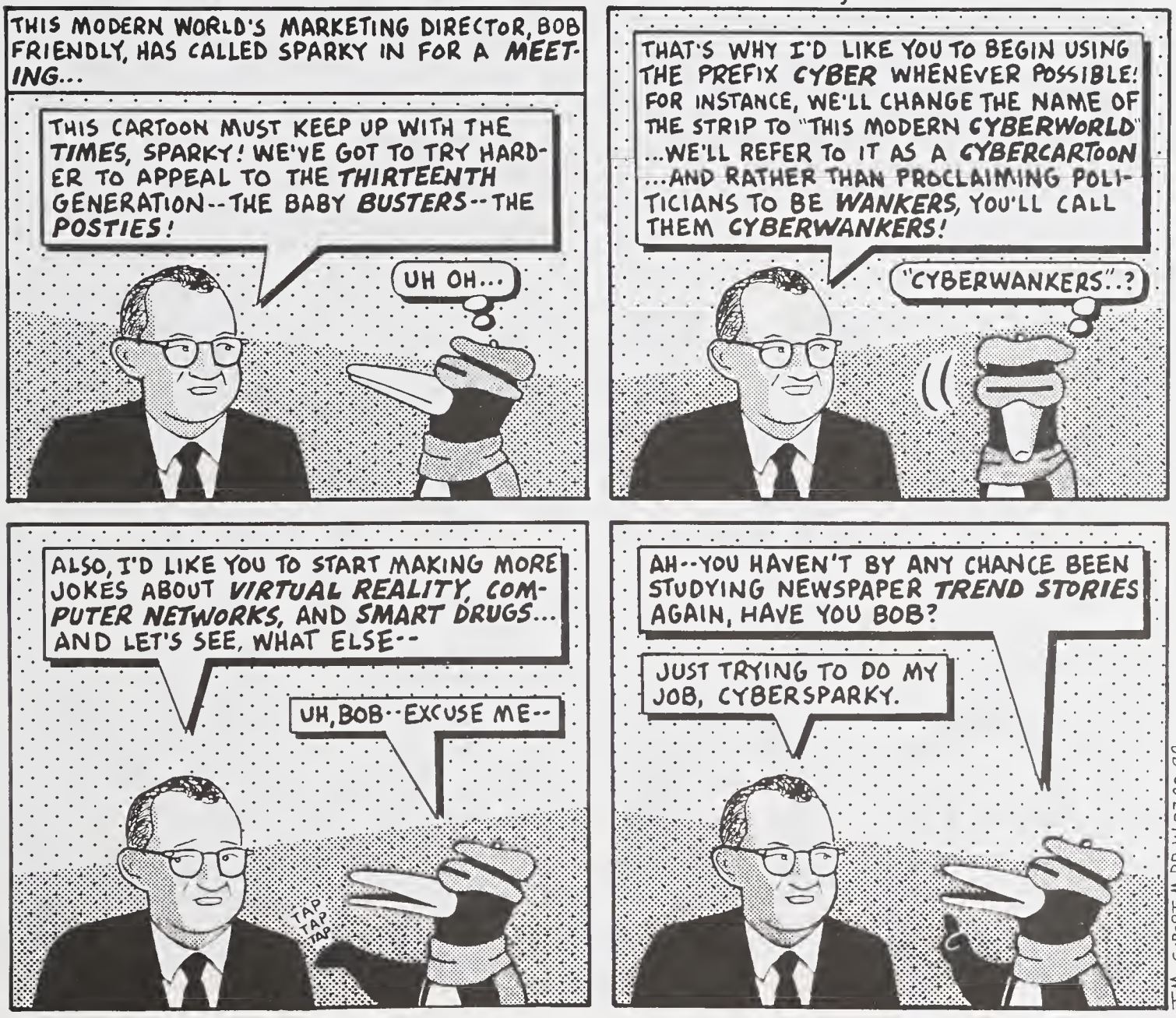

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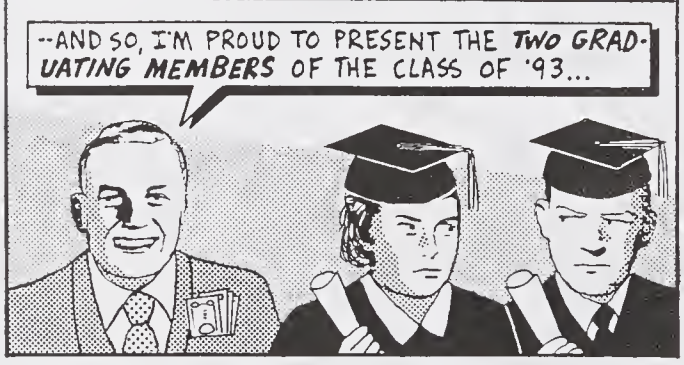
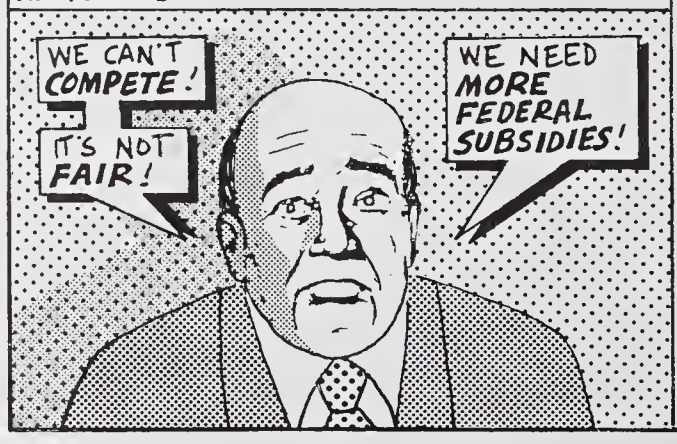
SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS SHOULD BE ***PRIVATIZED*** AND RUN WITH THE FREE-MARKET EFFICIENCY OF OUR ***MAJOR CORPORATIONS***...WHICH LEADS ***US*** TO WONDER: WOULD THIS MEAN THAT SCHOOL PRINCIPALS COULD REWARD THEMSELVES WITH MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR ***BONUSES*** REGARDLESS OF PERFORMANCE?



IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE PROFITS, WOULD THE WASTEFUL EXTRAVAGANCE OF ***LIVE TEACHERS*** BE ELIMINATED--IN FAVOR OF A MORE COST-EFFICIENT ***AUTOMATED*** INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD?

WOULD CORPORATE RAIDERS TAKE OVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN ***LEVERAGED BUYOUTS***--AND THEN SELL OFF THE SCHOOLS' ***ASSETS*** TO PAY OFF THE DEBTS INCURRED?

AND...WOULD THESE PRIVATIZED FREE-MARKET SCHOOLS RESPOND TO INEVITABLE FOREIGN COMPETITION IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER OF AMERICAN BUSINESS...BY ***WHINING*** AND ***BEGGING*** FOR ***GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS?***



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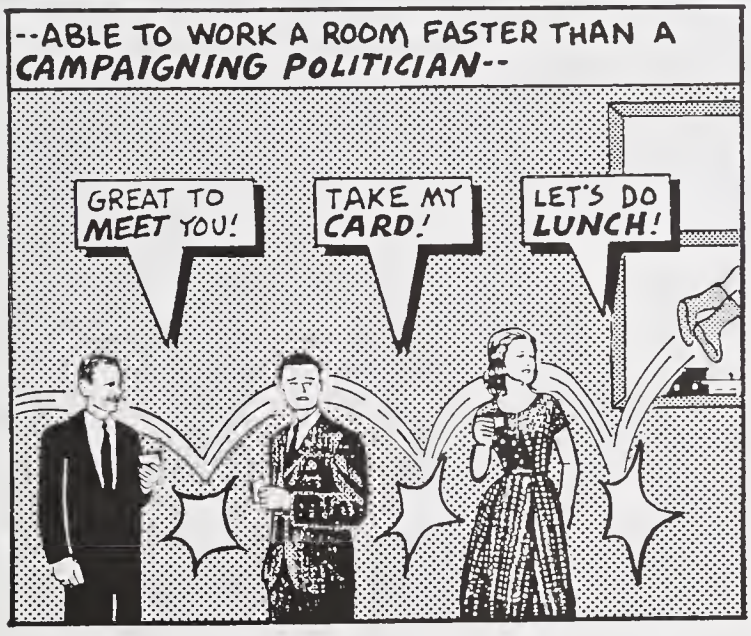
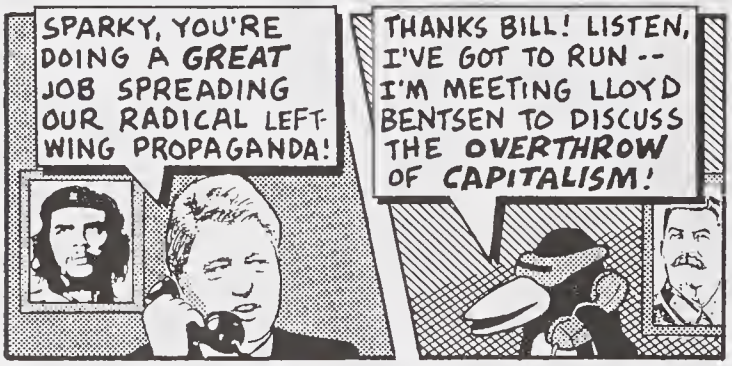


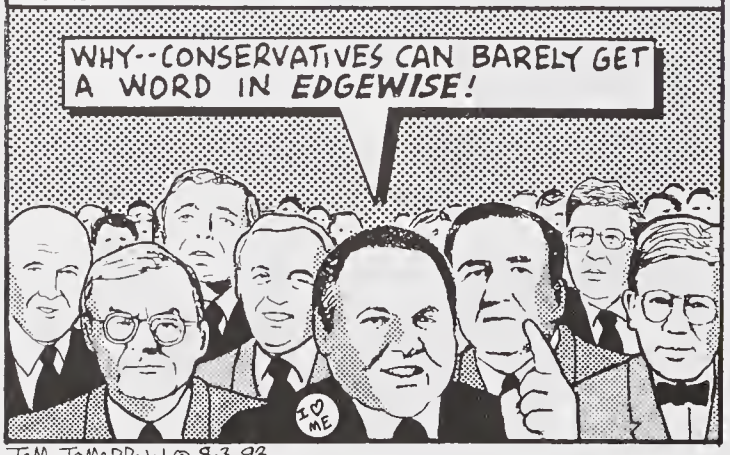
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

"*THIS MODERN WORLD*" HAS BEEN GETTING A LOT OF MAIL LATELY FROM CONSERVATIVES WHO SEEM TO BE ANGRY AT *US* FOR THINGS *BILL CLINTON* HAS DONE...THEY OFTEN LUMP US INTO THE AMORPHOUS CATEGORY OF "*YOU LIBERALS*," WHICH APPARENTLY ENCOMPASSES ANYONE TO THE LEFT OF, SAY, *BOB DOLE*...



OF COURSE, WE CAN'T *BLAME* READERS OF DIFFERING POLITICAL PERSUASIONS FOR FEELING THREATENED BY THIS CARTOON... SOMETIMES WE *OURSELVES* ARE A LITTLE OVERWHELMED BY THE AWESOME POWER WE WIELD...

IN FACT, WE HAVE TO ADMIT--IT'S *PRETTY DARNED UNFAIR* THAT THE NATION'S CORPORATE-OWNED MEDIA ARE SO THOROUGHLY DOMINATED BY LEFT-WING VOICES SUCH AS OURS...



TOM TOMORROW © 8-3-93

YES, IT'S CERTAINLY A *ONE-SIDED DEBATE*...WHICH IS WHY, AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO OUR LONG-SUFFERING CONSERVATIVE READERS, WE'RE HAPPY TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING READY-TO-MAIL COUPON--DENOUNCING *THIS VERY CARTOON*...

CLIP AND MAIL

DEAR EDITOR:

HOW DARE YOU PRINT THE OPINIONS OF TOM TOMORROW? THEY ARE AT VARIANCE WITH MY OWN!

YOU LIBERALS!

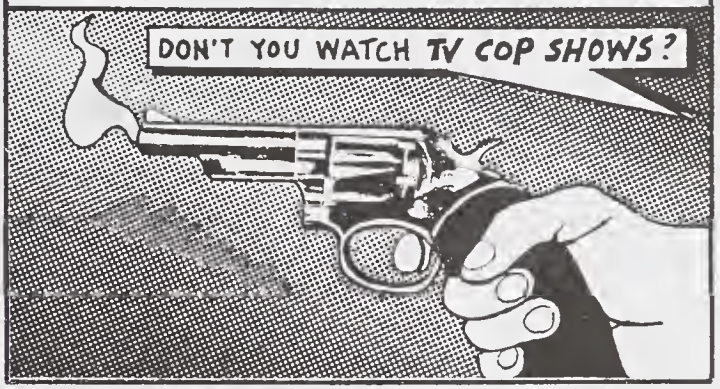
SIGNED:_____

CLIP AND MAIL

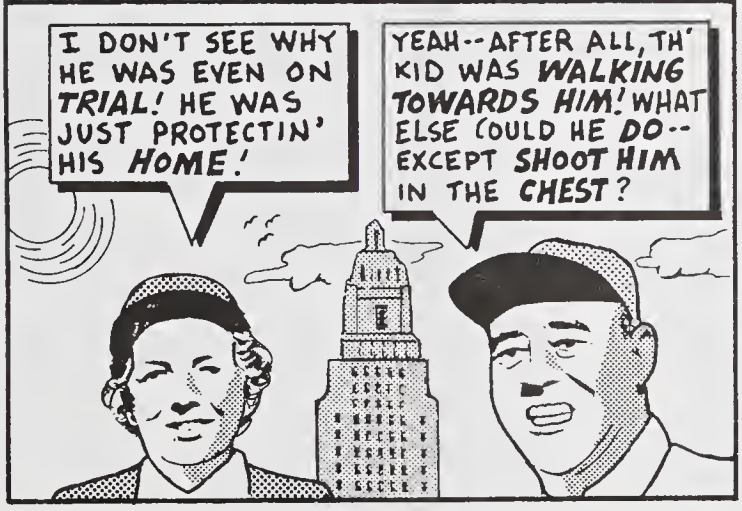
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

WHEN STRANGERS RING THE DOORBELL, MANY CITY-DWELLERS TAKE SENSIBLE PRECAUTIONS, SUCH AS LOOKING THROUGH THE ***PEEPHOLE*** OR LEAVING THE ***CHAIN*** HOOKED ACROSS THE DOOR...

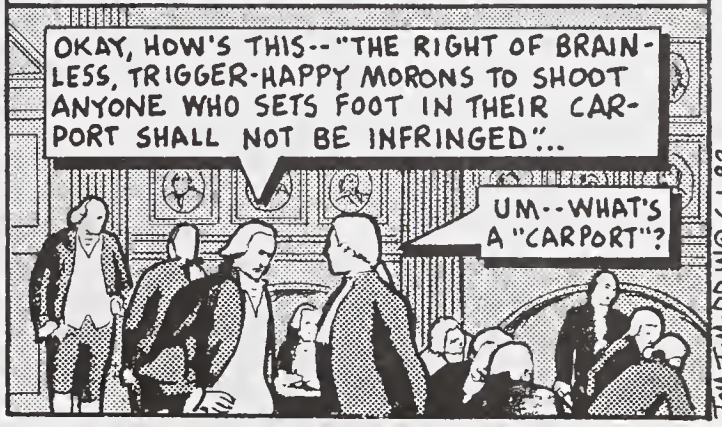
IN LOUISIANA, THEY TAKE THINGS A STEP ***FURTHER***... LAST OCTOBER, A 16-YEAR-OLD JAPANESE EXCHANGE STUDENT APPROACHED THE WRONG HOUSE ON HIS WAY TO A PARTY... AND WAS SHOT AND KILLED SECONDS LATER WHEN HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND GUN-WIELDING HOMEOWNER RODNEY PEAIRS' COMMAND TO ***"FREEZE"***...



NOW A JURY HAS ACQUITTED PEAIRS... IN JAPAN, THE VERDICT WAS GREETED WITH SHOCK AND DISBELIEF... HOWEVER, MANY LOUISIANANS HAD A SOMEWHAT ***DIFFERENT*** REACTION...



THOUGH THE JURY WAS OBVIOUSLY SWAYED BY THE DEFENSE'S CONTENTION THAT "YOU HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO ANSWER EVERYBODY THAT COMES TO YOUR DOOR WITH A GUN," ***WE*** CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER IF THIS IS ***REALLY*** WHAT THE FOUNDING FATHERS HAD IN MIND...



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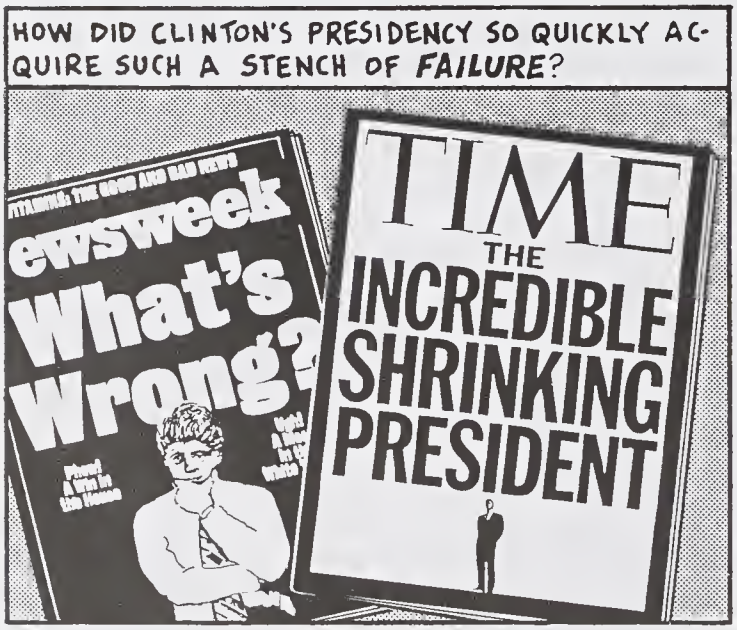

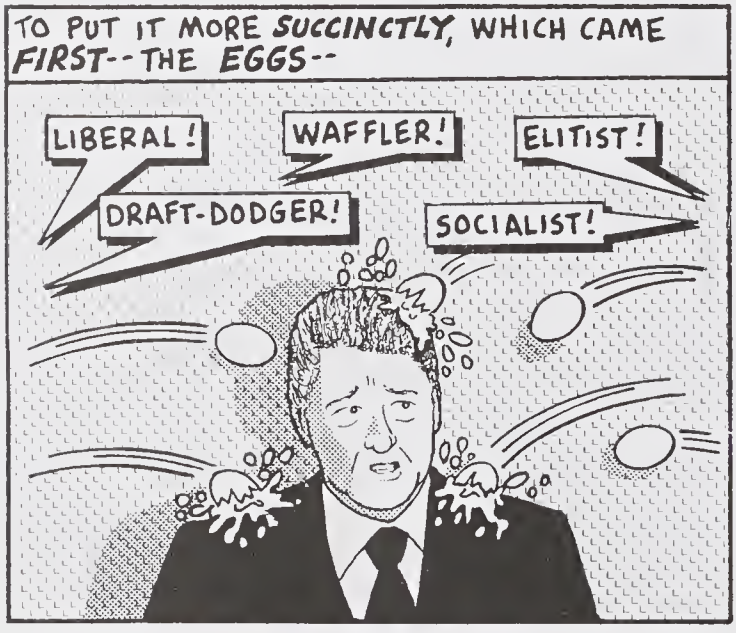

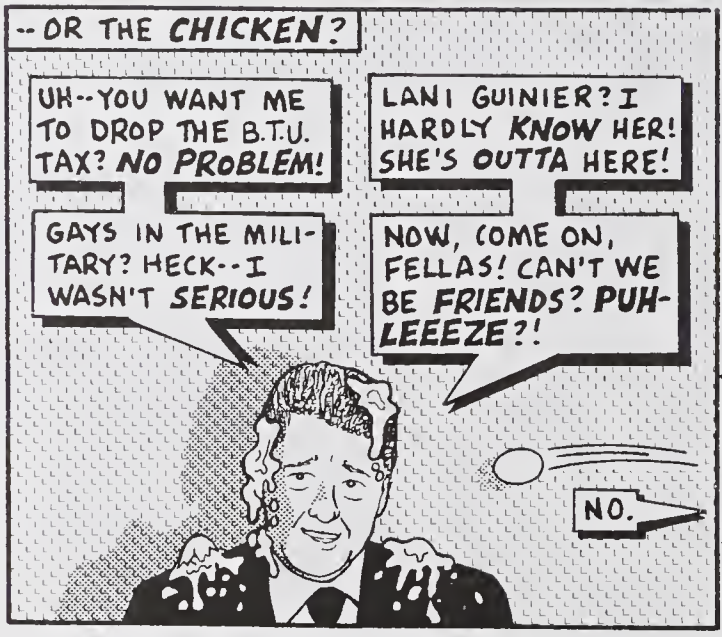

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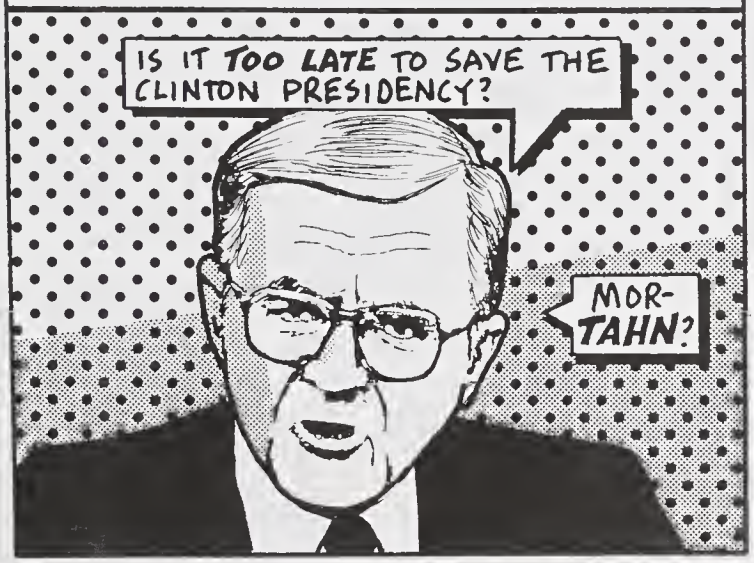
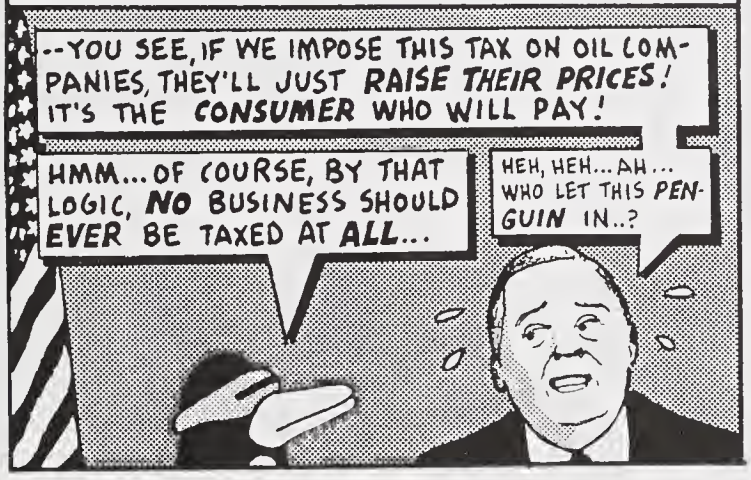
ONLY *FOUR MONTHS* INTO THE PRESIDENT'S TERM, PUNDITS WANT TO KNOW:



ADMITTEDLY, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE SOME *ASTONISHING* BLUNDERS LATELY...WHICH REPUBLICAN PIT BULL *BOB DOLE* HAS WASTED *NO TIME* IN EXPLOITING...

MEANWHILE, CLINTON'S PROPOSED ENERGY TAX HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK--PRIMARILY BY FELLOW DEMOCRAT *DAVID BOREN*, WHO SPENT THE LAST FEW WEEKS EAGERLY DEMONSTRATING HIS SUBSERVIENCE TO *BIG OIL*...



CLINTON ULTIMATELY *CAPITULATED* TO BOREN... AGREEING, AS THE *NEW YORK TIMES* NOTED APPROVINGLY TO "EASE THE BURDEN ON BUSINESS" BY SCALING BACK THE ENERGY TAX... OFFSETTING THE LOSS IN REVENUE WITH--YES--*ENTITLEMENT CUTS*...

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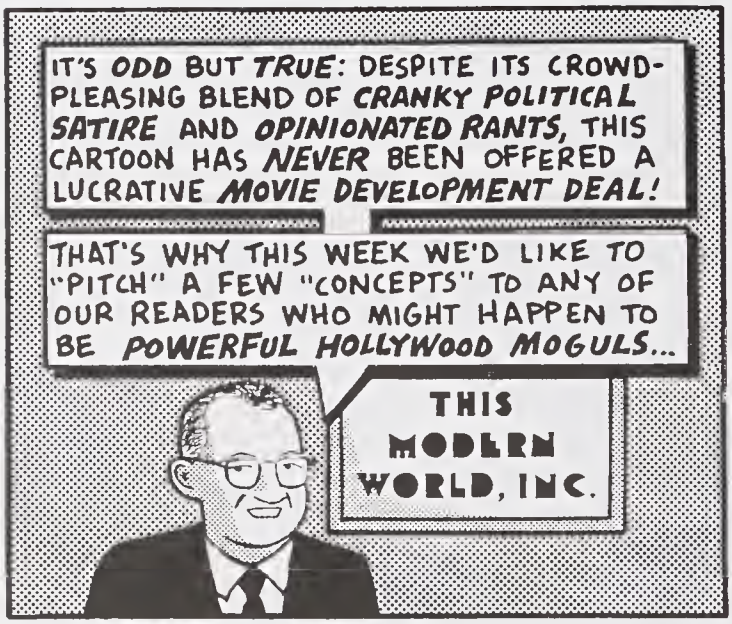

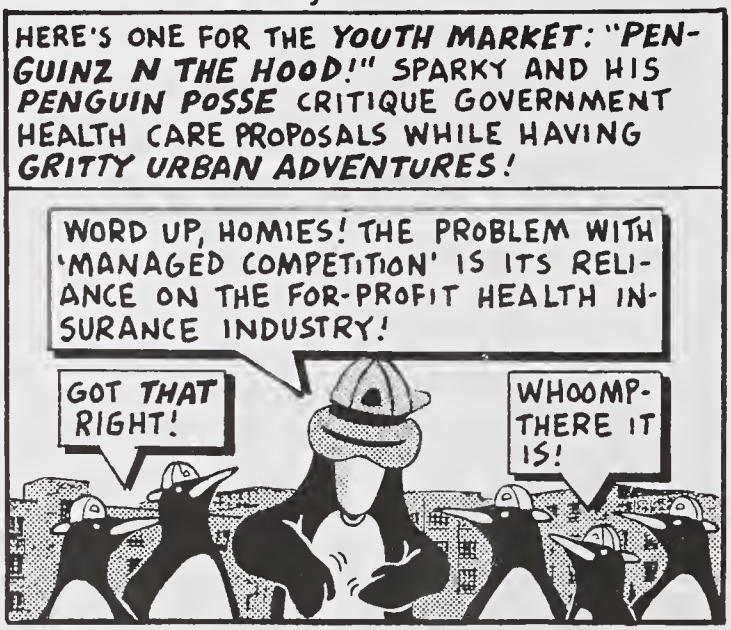

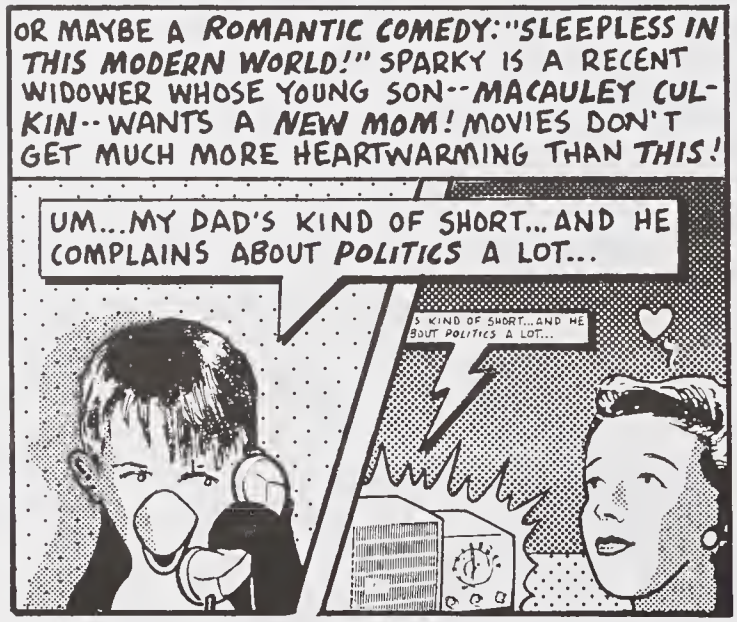

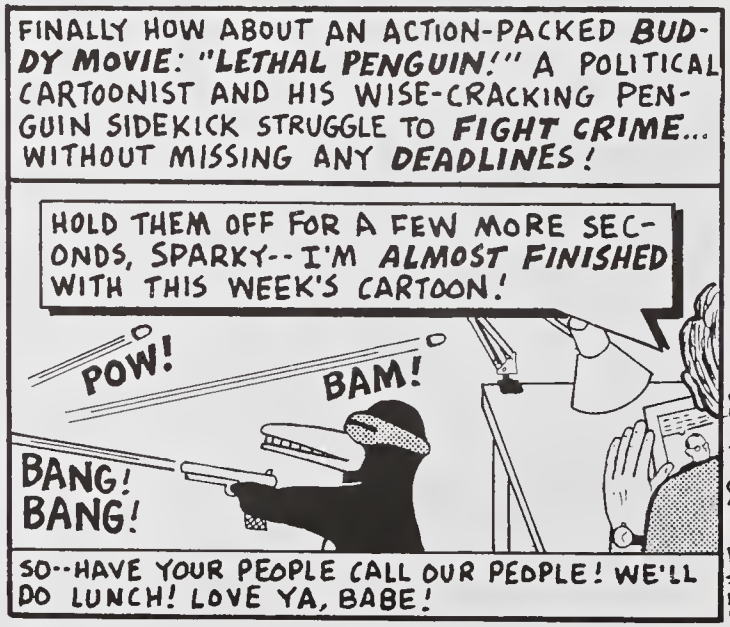

WHEN BILL CLINTON SUGGESTED RAISING THE TOP TAX RATE TO 39.6%, HE WAS BITTERLY DENOUNCED BY CONSERVATIVE MEDIA PUNDITS LIKE **PAT BUCHANAN**-- WHO, INCIDENTALLY, EARNS AN ESTIMATED **$800,000** A **YEAR**...

--THIS IS **CLEARLY** JUST MORE OF THAT TIRED OLD DEMOCRATIC "**TAX-AND-SPEND**" MENTALITY!

TO PUT THIS IN **PERSPECTIVE**, REMEMBER THAT IN 1980, RONALD REAGAN CONVINCED CONGRESS TO CUT THE TOP TAX RATE FROM **70%** TO **50%**...AND THEN, IN 1986, FROM **50%** TO **28%**...WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INCREASING MILITARY SPENDING **EXPONENTIALLY**...EVENTUALLY LEAVING THE COUNTRY SADDLED WITH A **CRIPPLING** DEFICIT...

AHEM--AH, PAT, LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT TIRED OLD REPUBLICAN "**BORROW-AND-SPEND**" MENTALITY FOR A MOMENT, SHALL WE?

REPUBLICANS CONSIDER CLINTON'S TAX HIKE A DECLARATION OF "**CLASS WAR**"-- A TERM THEY DIDN'T SEEM TO FIND APPROPRIATE A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN THEY WERE SLASHING SOCIAL SERVICES TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR CORPORATE TAX **GIVEAWAYS**...

OF COURSE NOT! **EVERYONE** BENEFITTED FROM THE REAGAN REVOLUTION-- **DIDN'T** THEY?

EVERYONE **WE** KNOW CERTAINLY DID, DEAR...

THE PAPERS ARE FILLED EACH DAY WITH NEWS OF **LAYOFFS** AND "**DOWNSIZINGS**"...BUT CONSERVATIVES **STILL** INSIST THAT THEIR TRICKLE-DOWN POLICIES WERE **SUCCESSFUL**...MEGA-MILLIONAIRE RUSH LIMBAUGH ASSURES HIS AUDIENCE EACH DAY THAT THINGS HAVE **NEVER BEEN BETTER**...

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA BELIEVE-- **ME** OR YOUR **OWN EYES**?

WHY-- **YOU**, RUSH!

PLANT CLOSES

LAYOFFS

THERE ARE MANY WHO **ACCEPT** THIS DISTORTION OF REALITY...EVIDENTLY HAVING BEEN CONDITIONED TO IDENTIFY WITH THE ECONOMIC **ELITE** AT THEIR **OWN EXPENSE**...

THE **LIBERALS** WANT TO TAX THE RICH TO PAY FOR **HEALTH CARE**.

THAT'S **AWFUL**! WHY DO THEY INSIST ON **PUNISHING SUCCESS**?

TAP TAP TAP

YOU WANT IT WHEN?

THIS ATTITUDE IS IN NO WAY **RECIPROCAL**... A FACT EXECUTIVES AT THE **BANK OF AMERICA** RECENTLY ILLUSTRATED BY SLASHING THEIR EMPLOYEES' HOURS--AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, **BENEFITS**-- NOT LONG AFTER THE BANK POSTED **RECORD** PROFITS...

ULP--YOU MEAN--**I** WON'T HAVE ANY HEALTH INSURANCE?!

UH...WHAT WERE THOSE LIBERALS SAYING AGAIN..?

TOM TOMORROW@93

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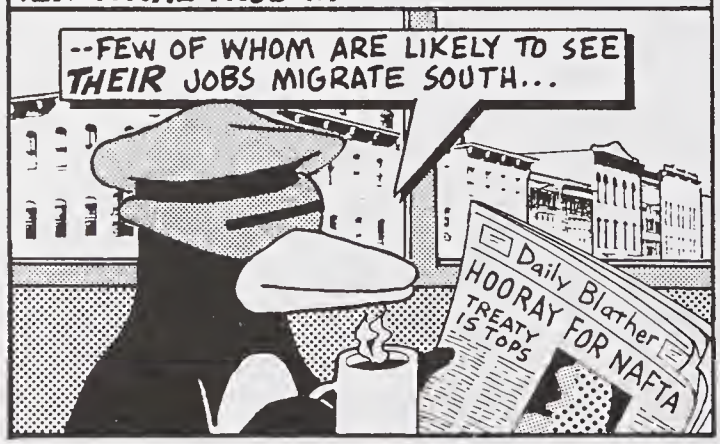
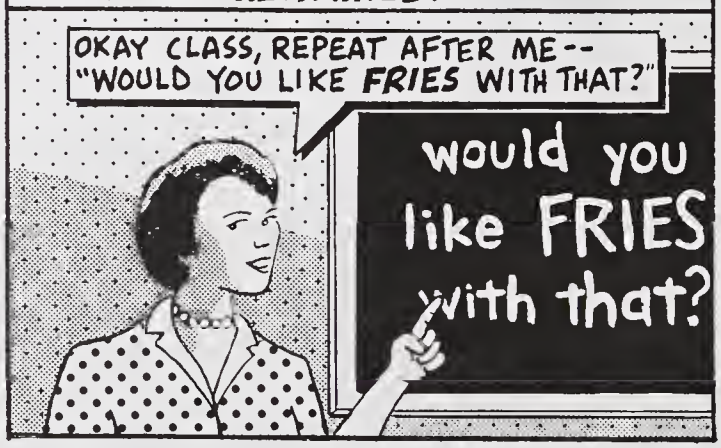
TO PROMOTE THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS REPORTEDLY FINANCING A *FIFTY MILLION DOLLAR* LOBBYING CAMPAIGN...NEEDLESS TO SAY, THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF *EXPERTS* WILLING TO SING THE TREATY'S *PRAISES*...

NAFTA PROPONENTS ARGUE THAT THE TREATY WILL HELP THE AMERICAN ECONOMY BY CREATING NEW MEXICAN CONSUMERS...WITHOUT MENTIONING THAT THE AVERAGE WAGE CURRENTLY PAID BY U.S. CORPORATIONS IN MEXICO IS 63 CENTS AN *HOUR*...

UNFORTUNATELY--THOUGH UNSURPRISINGLY--NAFTA IS OVERWHELMINGLY FAVORED BY MAINSTREAM MEDIA *PUNDITS, EDITORIALISTS*, AND OTHER WOULD-BE SHAPERS OF *CONVENTIONAL WISDOM*...



ACCORDING TO SUCH NAFTA APOLOGISTS, WORKERS WHO *DO* LOSE THEIR JOBS ONCE THE INEVITABLE CORPORATE EXODUS TO MEXICO BEGINS HAVE NO NEED TO *WORRY*...THEY'LL SIMPLY BE...UM...*RETRAINED*...



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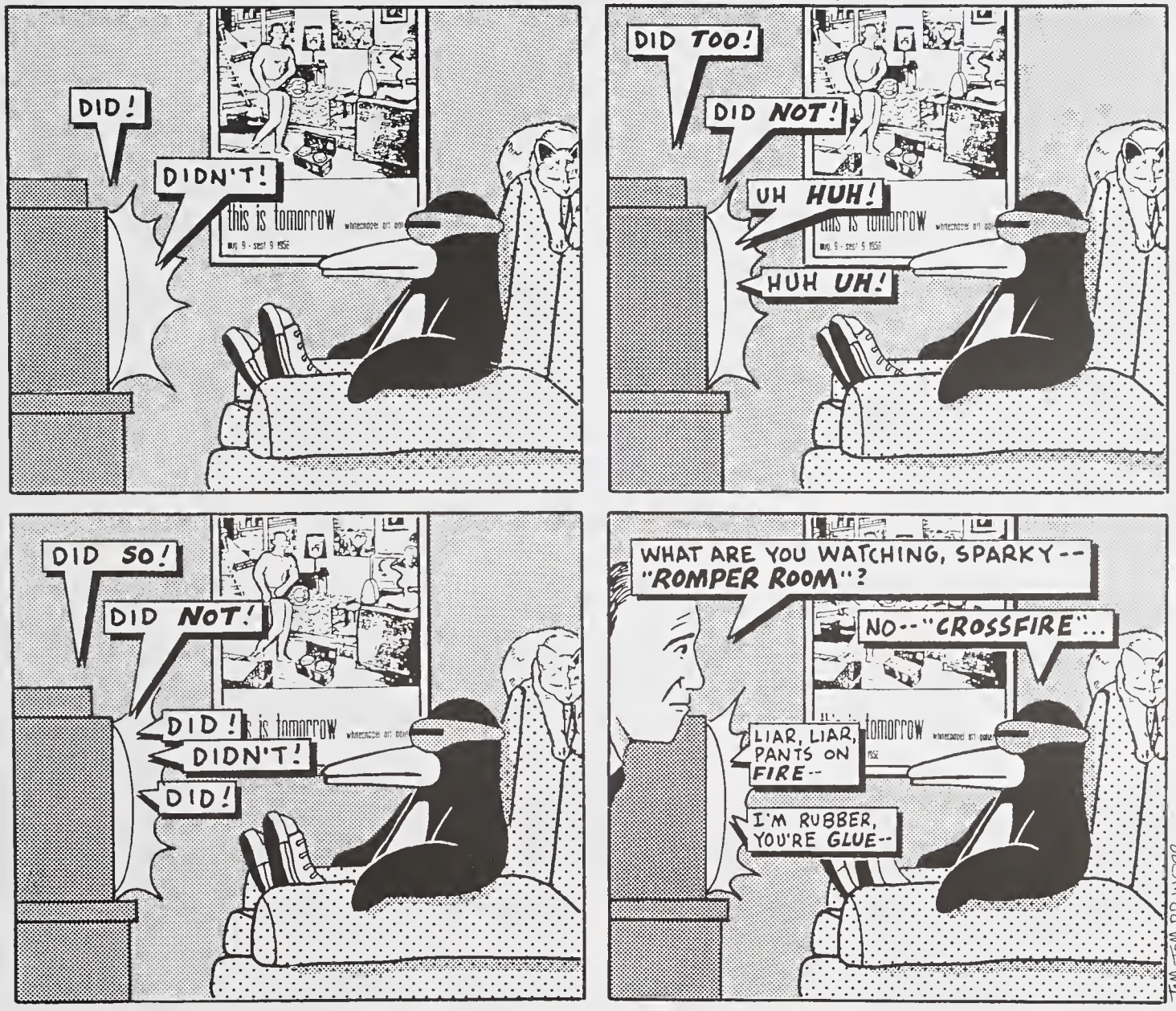

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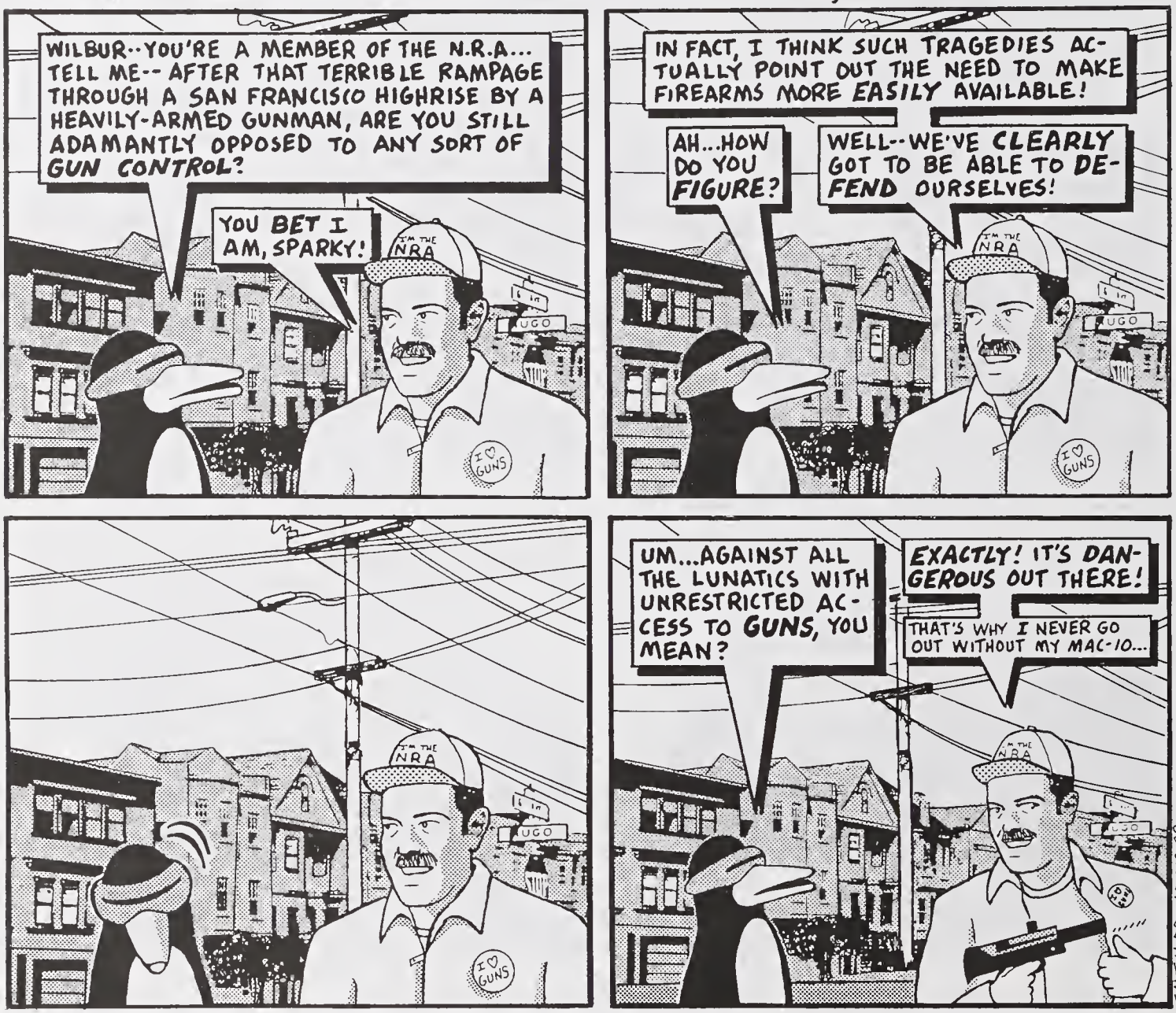

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EVEN IN THESE MEDIA-SAVVY TIMES, ADVERTISING CAN EASILY CREATE A MARKET FOR ITEMS OF ***DUBIOUS*** NECESSITY... THE RECENT SPATE OF ***CLEAR*** PRODUCTS, FOR INSTANCE...

HEY, JOE! THAT BEER OF YOURS-- WHY, IT'S THE COLOR OF ***URINE!*** HERE-- TRY A BOTTLE OF NEW ***CLEAR BEER!***

THANKS, BOB-- DON'T MIND IF I ***DO!***

!

OF COURSE, THE ADVERTISER'S ***CHALLENGE*** IS TO EFFECTIVELY REACH CONSUMERS IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE... CHRIS WHITTLE HAS HAD GREAT SUCCESS BRIBING CASH-HUNGRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTO SHOWING STUDENTS HIS "CHANNEL ONE" VIDEO FEED OF LIGHT NEWS AND-- MORE IMPORTANTLY-- ***COMMERCIAL MESSAGES...***

OKAY, CLASS-- TODAY WE'RE GOING TO LEARN ABOUT THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF ***SNICKERS CANDY BARS!***

NASA, FACING BUDGETARY CONSTRAINTS, IS REPORTEDLY INTERESTED IN A PLAN TO LAUNCH MILE-WIDE CORPORATE LOGOS INTO ORBIT, WHICH, FROM THE GROUND, WOULD APPEAR TO BE ABOUT THE SAME SIZE AS THE ***MOON...***

Coca-Cola
Mobil
Marlboro
SIGH...
AT&T
NABISCO
VISA

THAT ANYONE MIGHT ***OBJECT*** TO THIS IS PROBABLY AN IRRELEVANT CONSIDERATION... ADVERTISERS, AFTER ALL, WOULD HAPPILY BEAM COMMERCIALS DIRECTLY INTO OUR ***BRAINS*** IF THE TECHNOLOGY EXISTED...

TED, I'VE GIVEN IT A LOT OF THOUGHT AND, WELL-- I THINK WE SHOULD GET A ***DIVORCE...*** BY THE WAY-- HAVE YOU TRIED THE GREAT NEW TASTE OF ***DIET COKE?***

ZZZAP!

YOU ***BET*** I HAVE SUE! ONE AWESOME CALORIE-- TASTE IT ***ALL!***

UM-- WHERE WERE WE..?

ZZZAP!

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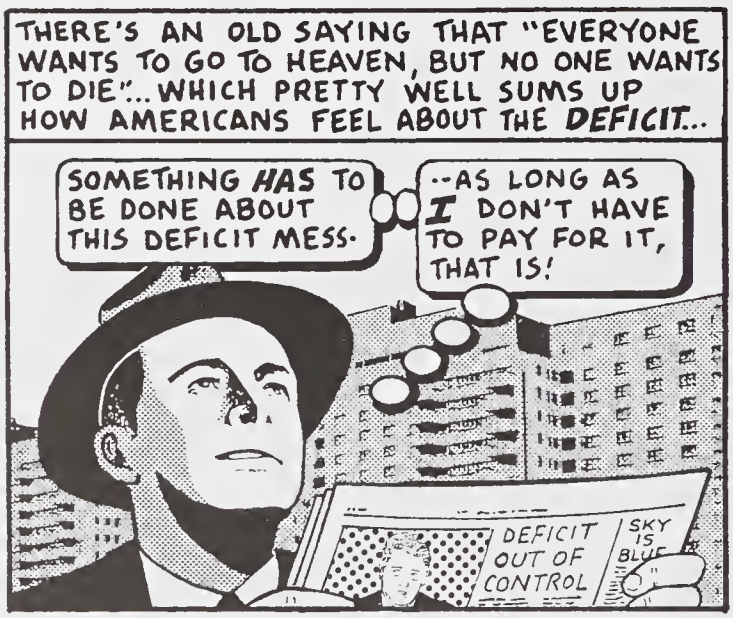

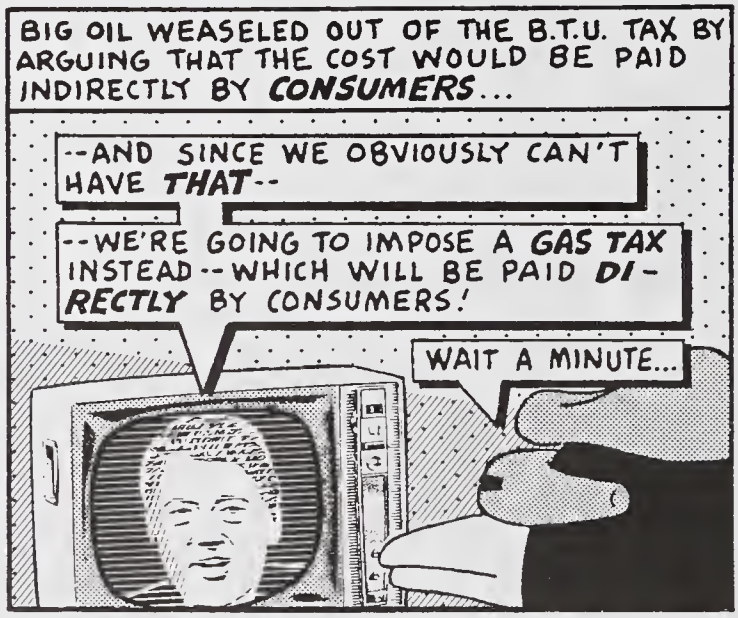

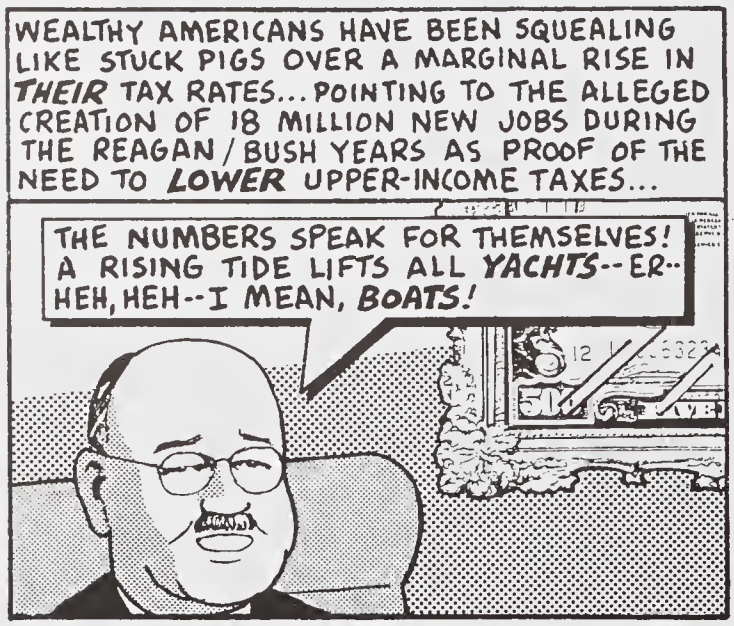

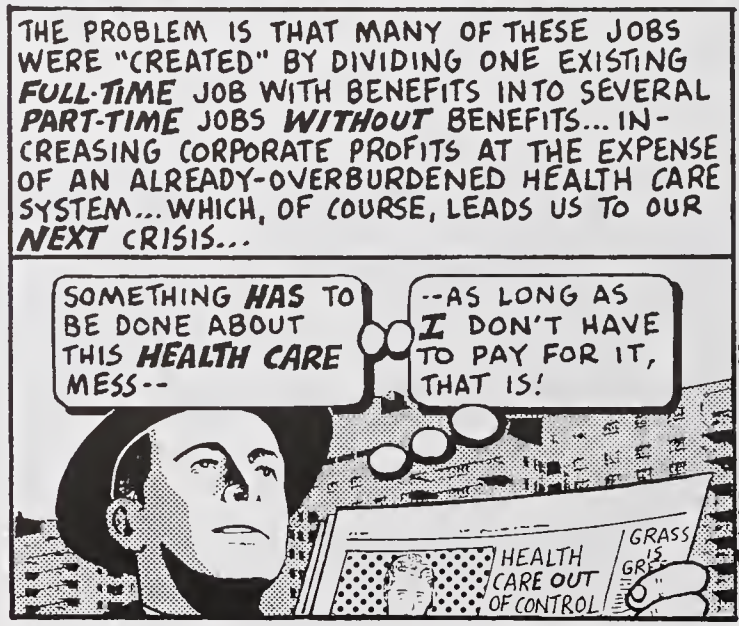

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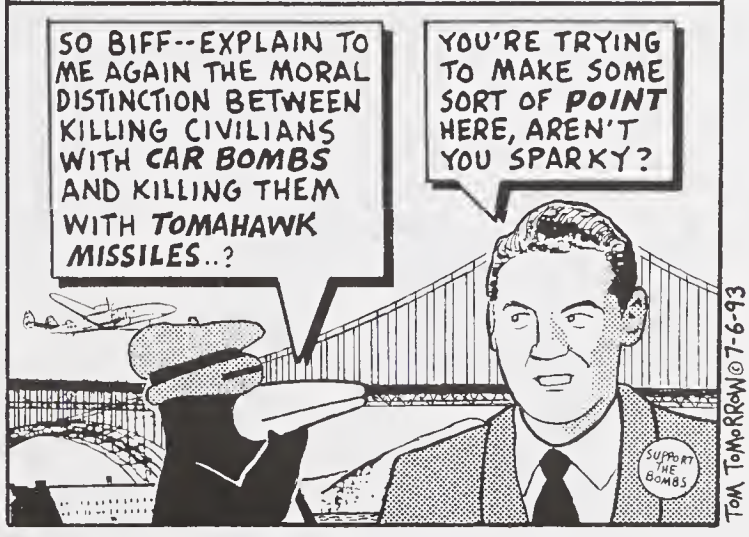
CYNICISM IN MATTERS POLITICAL IS RARELY UNJUSTIFIED... CONSIDER, FOR INSTANCE, THE G.A.O.'S CONCLUSION LAST WEEK THAT THE PENTAGON SYSTEMATICALLY ***LIED*** TO CONGRESS THROUGHOUT THE EIGHTIES IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY THE BUDGET-BUSTING REAGAN ***ARMS BUILDUP***...

CONSIDER TOO THAT WHILE CONSERVATIVES EVENTUALLY LEFT THE COUNTRY SADDLED WITH A FOUR TRILLION DOLLAR ***DEBT***, IT IS DAMNING ACCUSATIONS OF ***LIBERALISM*** FROM WHICH BILL CLINTON MUST FLEE-- GOING SO FAR LAST MONTH AS TO HIRE EX-REAGAN PITCHMAN ***DAVID GERGEN***--

--AND MORE RECENTLY, TO FOLLOW IN GEORGE BUSH'S FOOTSTEPS BY ***BOMBING IRAQ***--ALWAYS A GUARANTEED CROWD-PLEASER IN ***THIS*** COUNTRY...

PREDICTABLY, MOST AMERICANS ***DID*** APPROVE OF THE ATTACK-- THOUGH THERE WERE A FEW... WELL...***CYNICS***...



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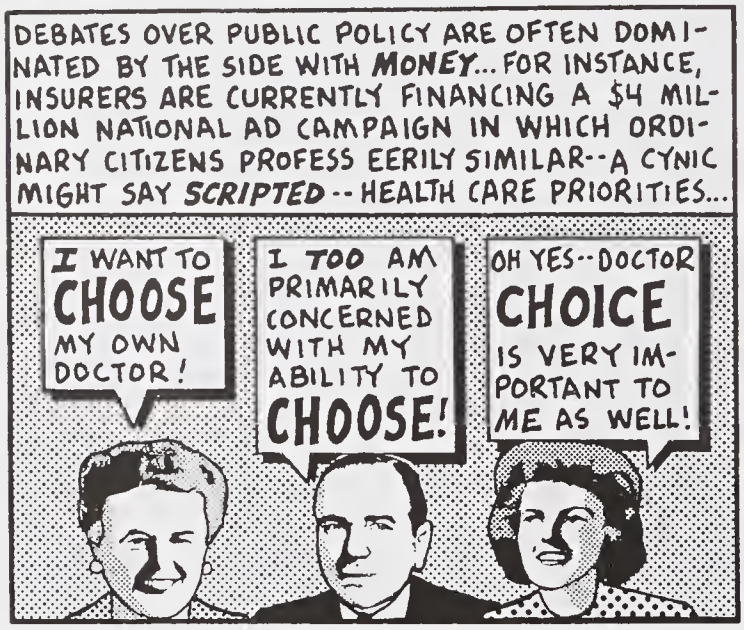

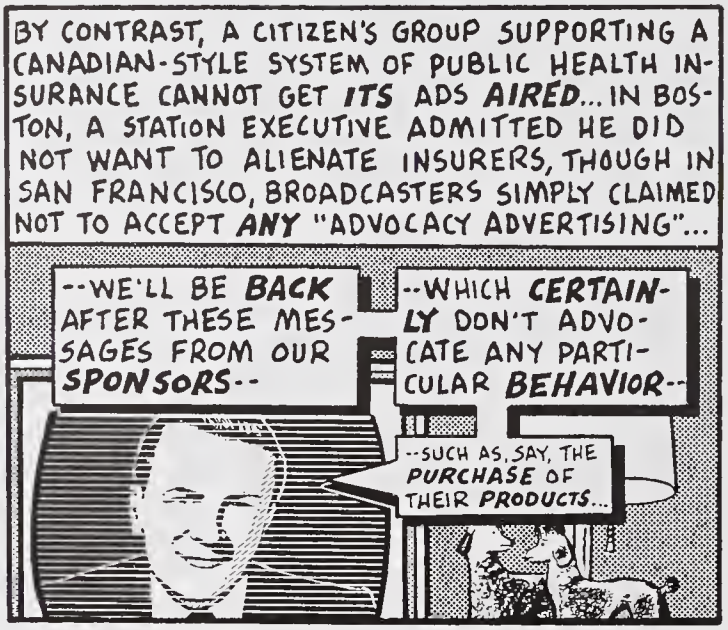

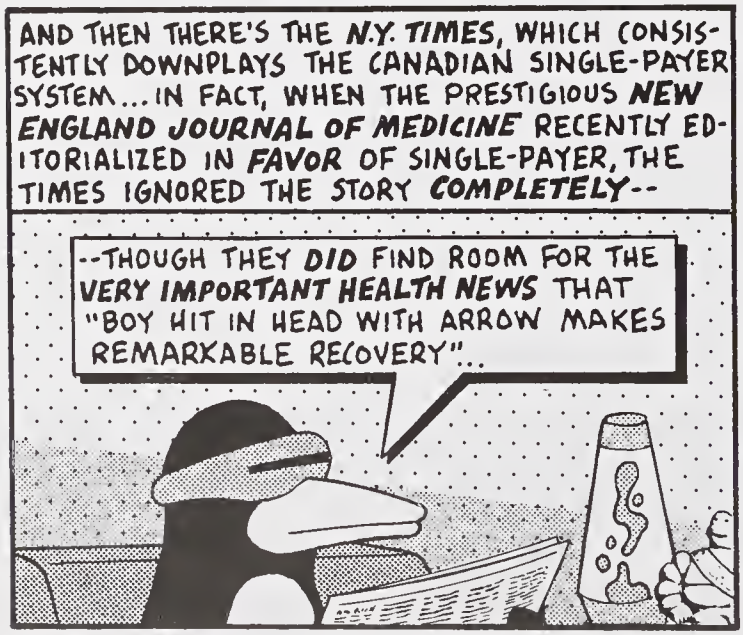

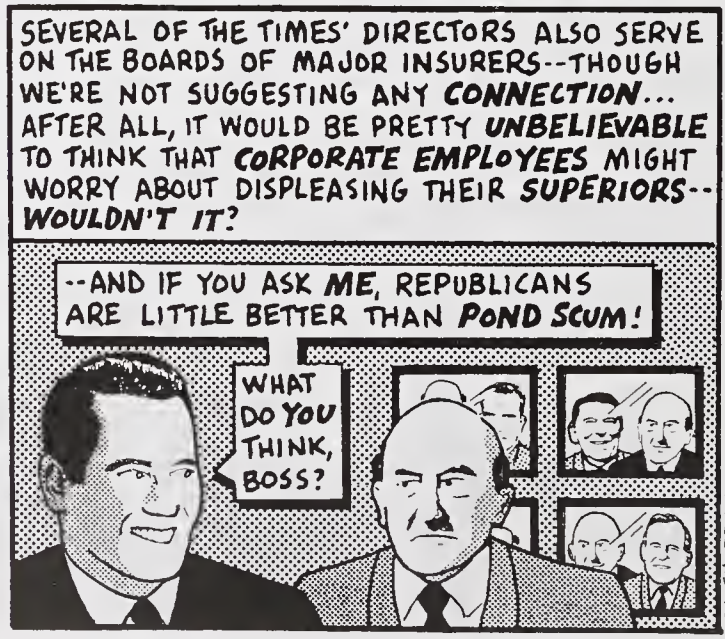

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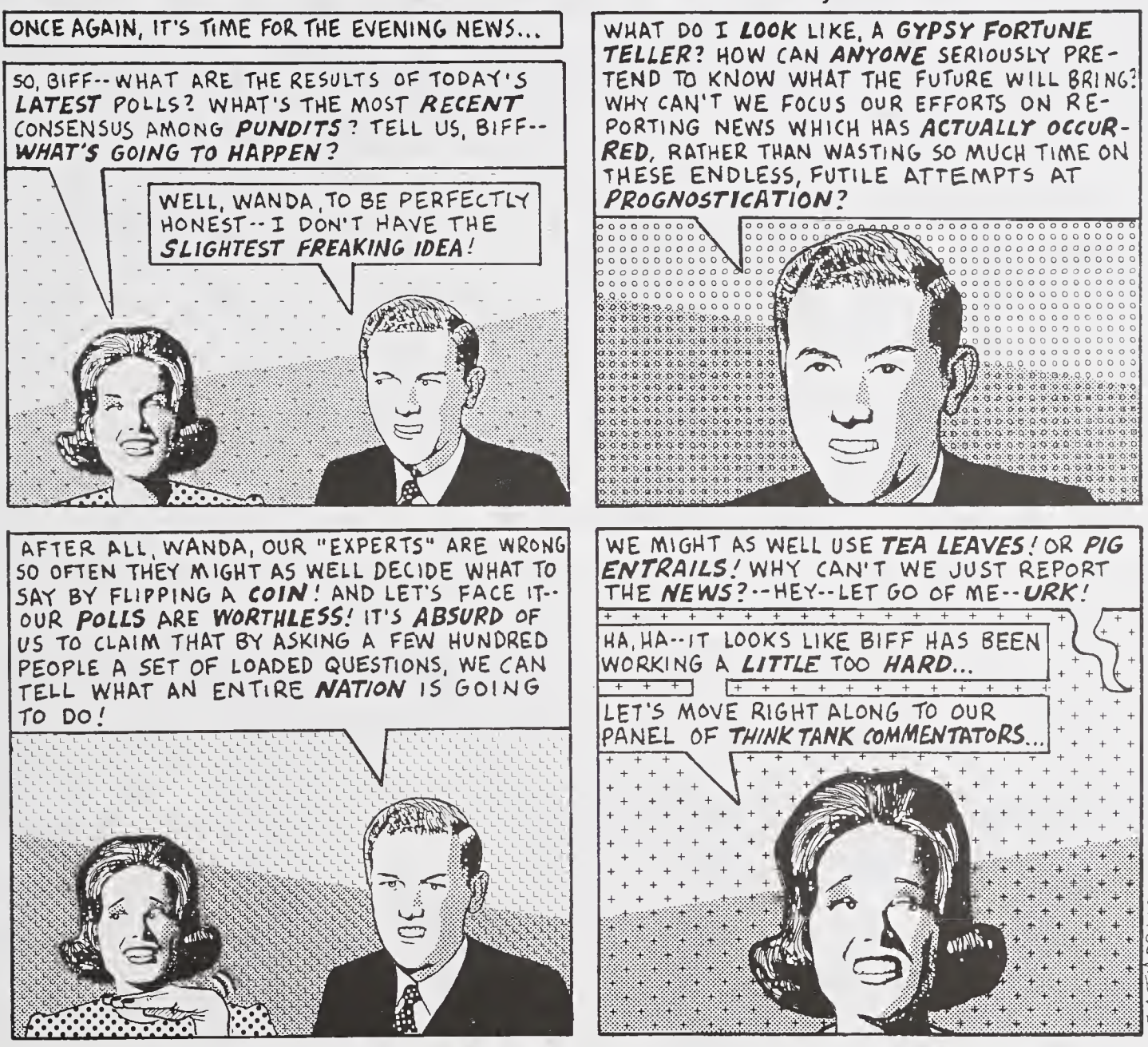

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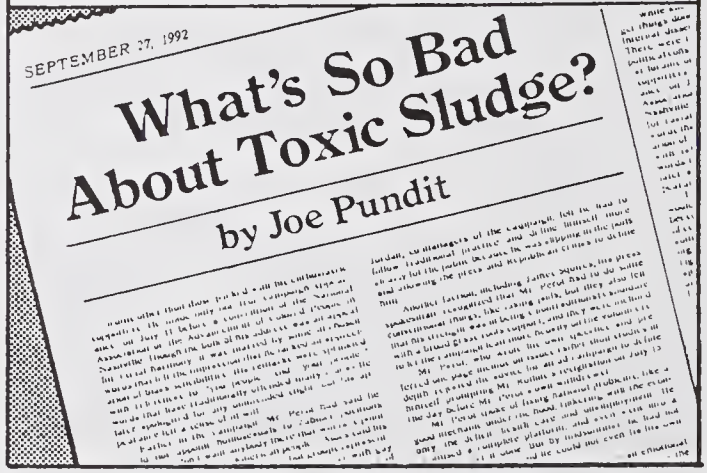
IT'S TIME FOR YET ANOTHER LOOK AT *HOW THE NEWS WORKS*... ***STEP ONE***: A CORPORATION WHICH HAS BEEN CAUGHT ENGAGING IN SOME ILLEGAL OR UNETHICAL ACT HIRES A ***PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM***...

STEP TWO: THE P.R. FIRM PROCEEDS TO MANIPULATE PUBLIC OPINION IN A VARIETY OF DEVIOUS, UNDERHANDED WAYS-- SUCH AS ANONYMOUSLY PLANTING OP-ED PIECES IN THE NATION'S ***NEWSPAPERS***...



...AS WELL AS SENDING OUT SLICKLY-PRODUCED "VIDEO NEWS RELEASES" WHICH MANY CASH-STRAPPED LOCAL NEWS DEPARTMENTS AIR VIRTUALLY ***UNEDITED***... GIVING CORPORATE PROPAGANDA THE APPEARANCE OF OBJECTIVE ***REPORTING***...

STEP THREE: PUBLIC OPINION IS ***SWAYED*** BY THIS ONSLAUGHT OF MEDIA MANIPULATION MASQUERADING AS ***NEWS***... SINCE, AS P.R. FIRMS WELL UNDERSTAND, ANY LIE REPEATED ***OFTEN*** ENOUGH BECOMES ***TRUE***...

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ACCORDING TO NASA SCIENTISTS, THE OZONE LAYER REACHED RECORD LEVELS OF DEPLETION THIS SUMMER...YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T HEAR ABOUT IT THOUGH, SINCE NASA--FEARFUL OF A POLITICAL BACKLASH FROM RIGHT-WING ACTIVISTS--CHOSE TO ***DOWNPLAY*** THE INFORMATION...

HEH, HEH...IT'S REALLY NO BIG ***DEAL***...

YOU JUST MIGHT WANT TO USE A SUNBLOCK WITH A SLIGHTLY HIGHER SUN PROTECTION FACTOR...

LIKE ABOUT ***100***...

NASA

THIS SPACE FOR RENT

APPARENTLY THESE ACTIVISTS WOULD RATHER RISK THE HEALTH OF EVERY LIVING BEING ON THE PLANET THAN ADMIT THE ***POSSIBILITY*** OF A PROBLEM...RUSH LIMBAUGH LEADS THE CHARGE, VOCIFEROUSLY DENYING THE VERY ***EXISTENCE*** OF A HOLE IN THE OZONE...

HEY--ALL THOSE SCIENTISTS HAVE ARE A BUNCH OF INSTRUMENTS AND MEASUREMENTS!

I HAVE AN ***IDEOLOGY!***

EIB

EIB

EIB

EIB

EIB EXTREMISM IN BROADCASTING

MAYBE HE'S RIGHT--BUT ***WHAT IF HE'S WRONG?*** AFTER ALL, WE'RE OPERATING ON A PRETTY SLIM MARGIN OF ERROR HERE...

THIN BAND OF ATMOSPHERE--SUPPORTING LIFE AS WE KNOW IT...

INFINITE REACHES OF SPACE--RATHER LESS HOSPITABLE TO LIFE AS WE KNOW IT...

BUT WHO KNOWS--MAYBE SOME PEOPLE SEE THE DESTRUCTION OF THE OZONE LAYER AS NOTHING MORE THAN A POSSIBLE NEW ***GROWTH INDUSTRY***...

HEY FRANK--NICE ENVIRONMENTAL SUIT! THAT'S THE NEW ***FORD*** MODEL, ISN'T IT?

YOU BET! MARGE AND I ***ALWAYS*** BUY ***AMERICAN!***

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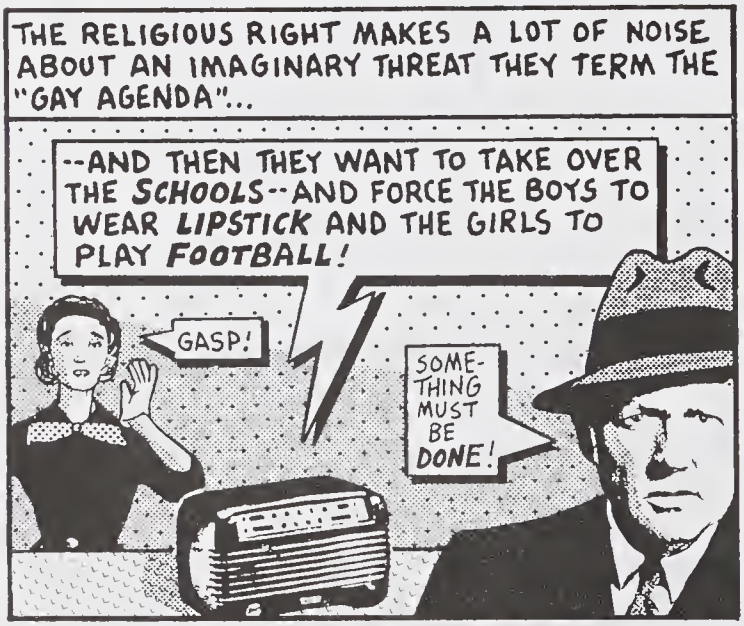

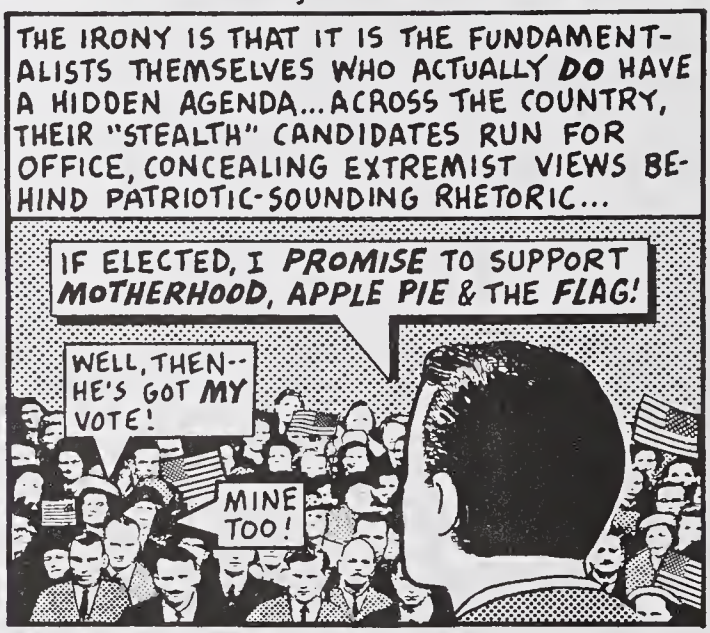

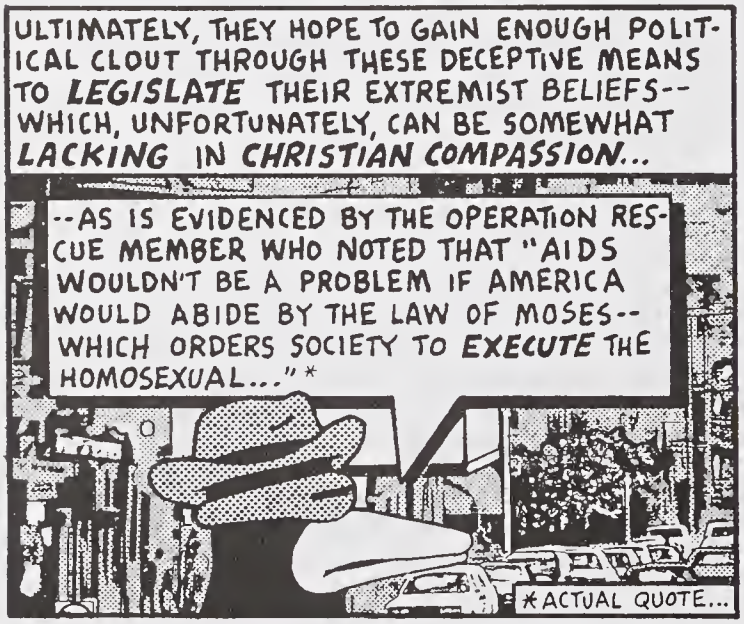

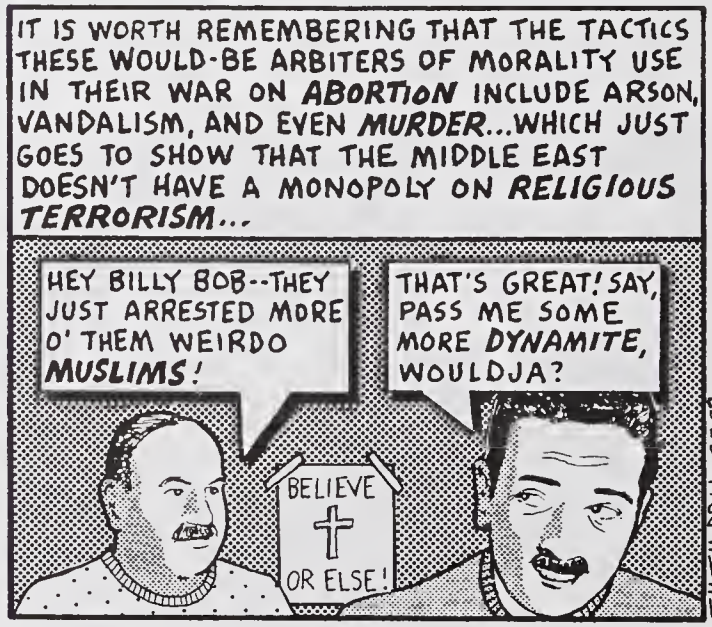

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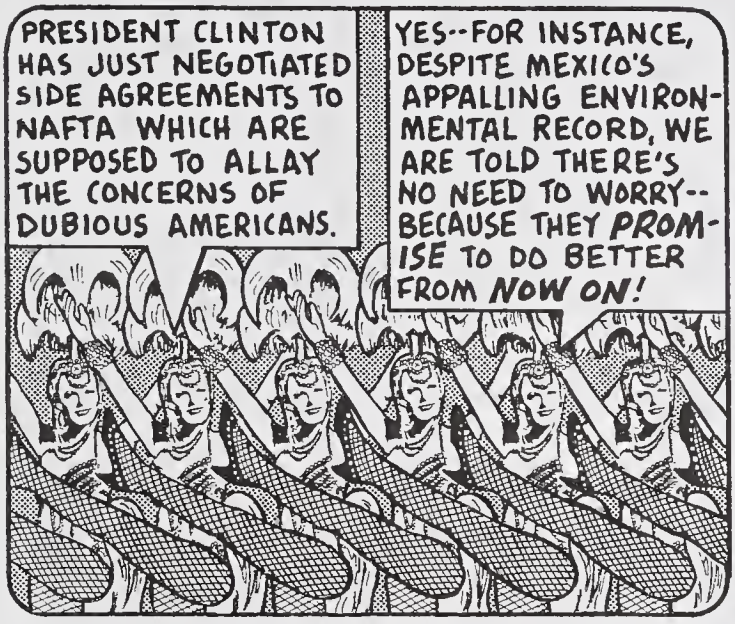
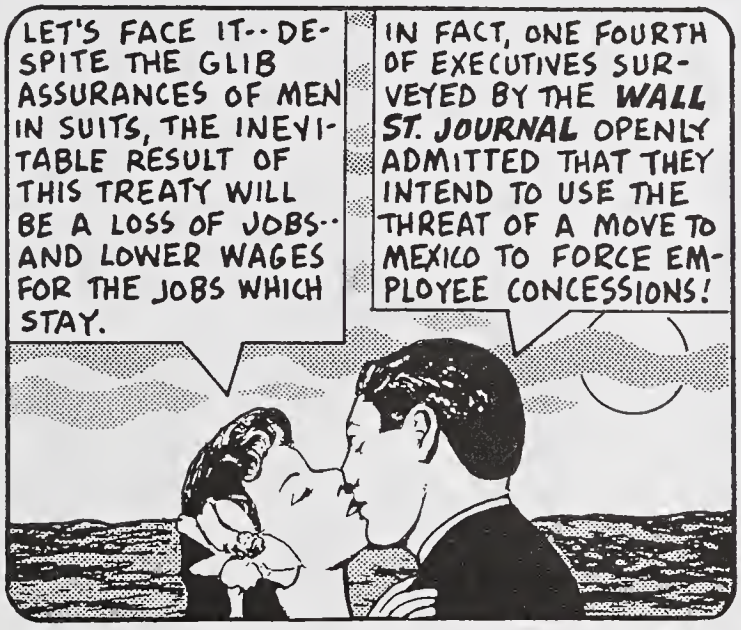




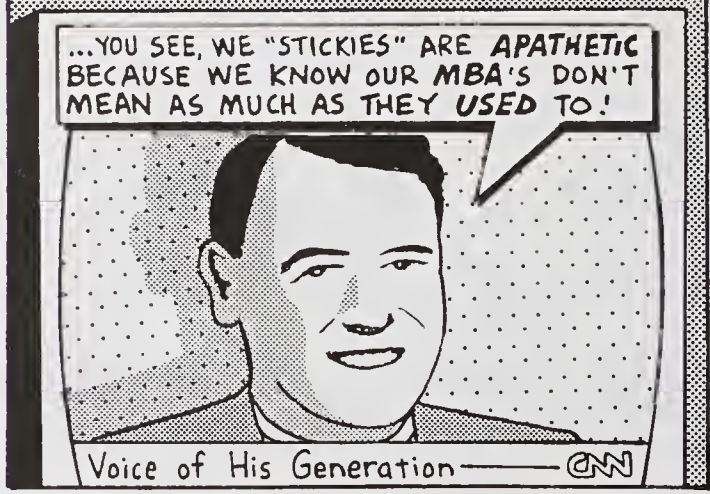
THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW

ACCORDING TO AN ENDLESS SUCCESSION OF OP-ED PIECES AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES, LIFE IS *TOUGH* FOR AMERICANS IN THEIR TWENTIES... SURE, THEY MAY NOT BE STARVING TO DEATH IN A BARREN DESERT... OR DODGING SNIPER FIRE IN A WAR-TORN COUNTRY... BUT GOSH DARN IT-- THEY JUST CAN'T FIND JOBS THEY LIKE!

THESE ARTICLES DESCRIBE TWENTYSOMETHINGS AS DISSATISFIED AND UNCERTAIN-- MUCH AS PEOPLE IN THEIR TWENTIES HAVE *ALWAYS* BEEN... HOWEVER, *THIS* GENERATION HAS A HANDY *SCAPEGOAT* FOR THEIR MIDDLE-CLASS ANGST...

WE DOUBT THAT MOST PEOPLE IN THEIR TWENTIES ARE *REALLY* SO CONSUMED WITH SELF-PITY... AFTER ALL, TIMES ARE CLEARLY DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE OF *ALL* AGES... STILL, MANY PUBLICATIONS CONTINUE TO GIVE SPACE TO ANY YOUNG WRITER WHO CAN THINK UP A CLEVER *NICKNAME* FOR THEIR GENERATION--

--AND WHO HAS SUFFICIENT CHUTZPAH TO BELIEVE THAT THEIR *YEAR OF BIRTH* QUALIFIES THEM TO MAKE SWEEPING GENERALIZATIONS ABOUT TENS OF MILLIONS OF *STRANGERS*...



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IF YOU EXPRESS SYMPATHY FOR THE ***DOWN-TRODDEN***... IF YOU HOLD OPINIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THE ***STATUS QUO***... WELL-- WE'VE GOT TWO SIMPLE WORDS TO PUT YOU IN ***YOUR*** PLACE...

WITH THIS VAGUE YET DENIGRATING PHRASE, THOSE WHO ATTEMPT TO UNDERSTAND THE VIEWPOINTS OF OTHERS CAN BE EASILY DISMISSED AS LEFT-WING ***CRANKS***...

YOU SEE, WE'RE JUST NOT ***INTERESTED*** IN OTHER POINTS OF VIEW! WE DON'T ***CARE!*** WE'VE GOT OUR ***OPINIONS***-- AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET ANY TROUBLESOME ***FACTS*** GET IN THE WAY...

BUT DON'T YOU TRY TO LABEL US AS ***INTOLERANT*** OR ***BIGOTED***... BECAUSE IF YOU ***DO***... WELL, RUSH LIMBAUGH HAS TAUGHT US HOW TO RESPOND TO ***THAT***...

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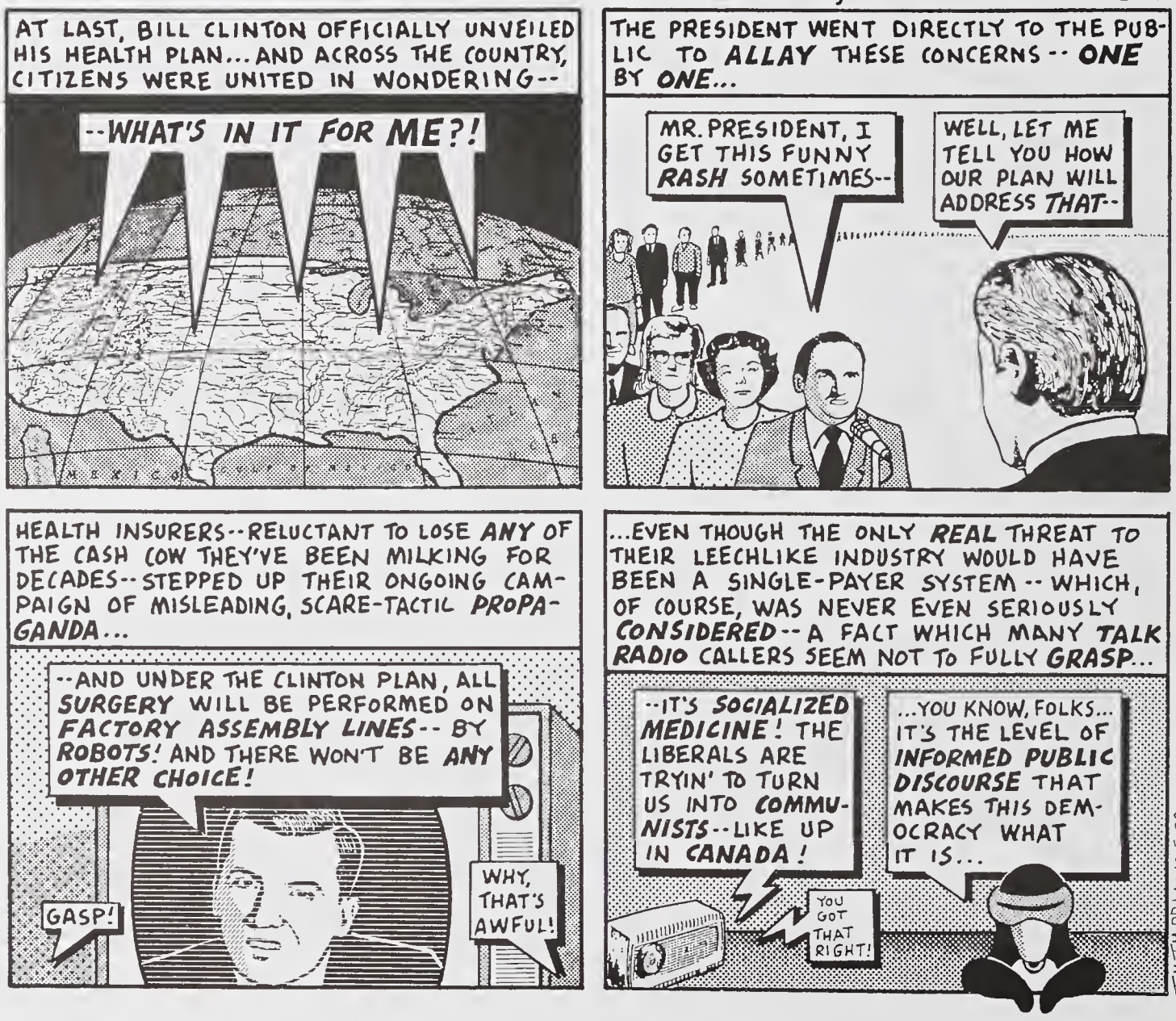

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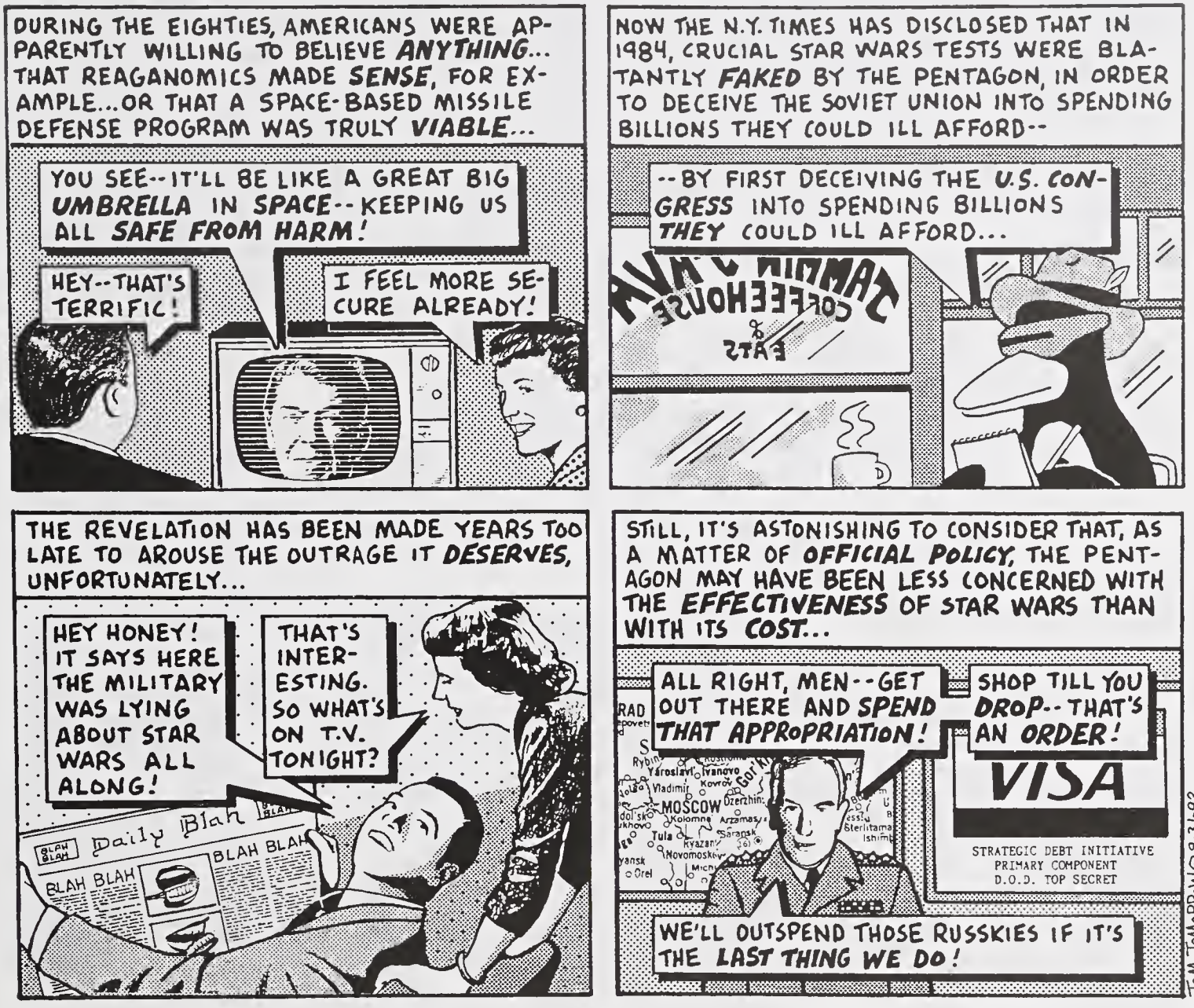

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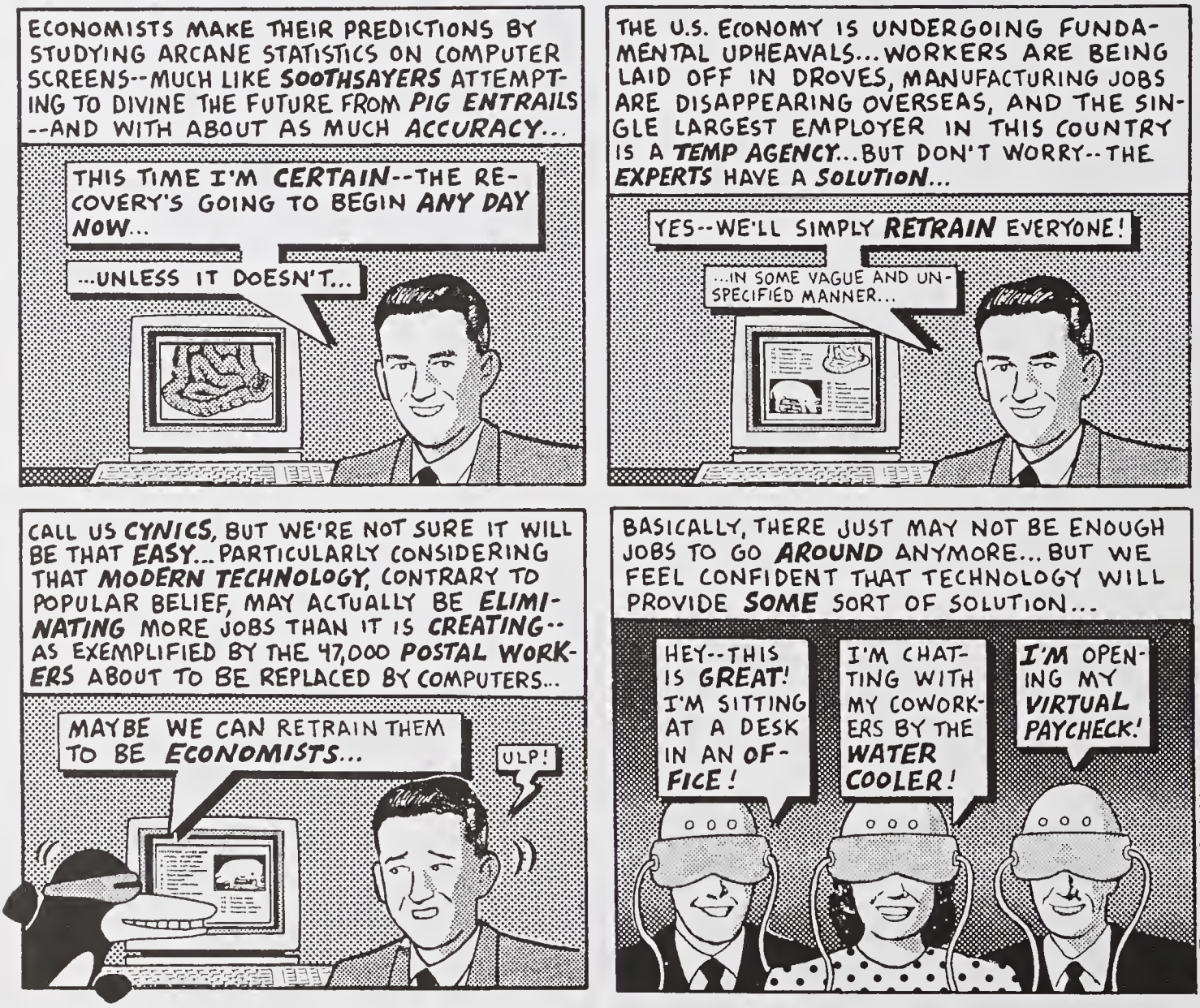

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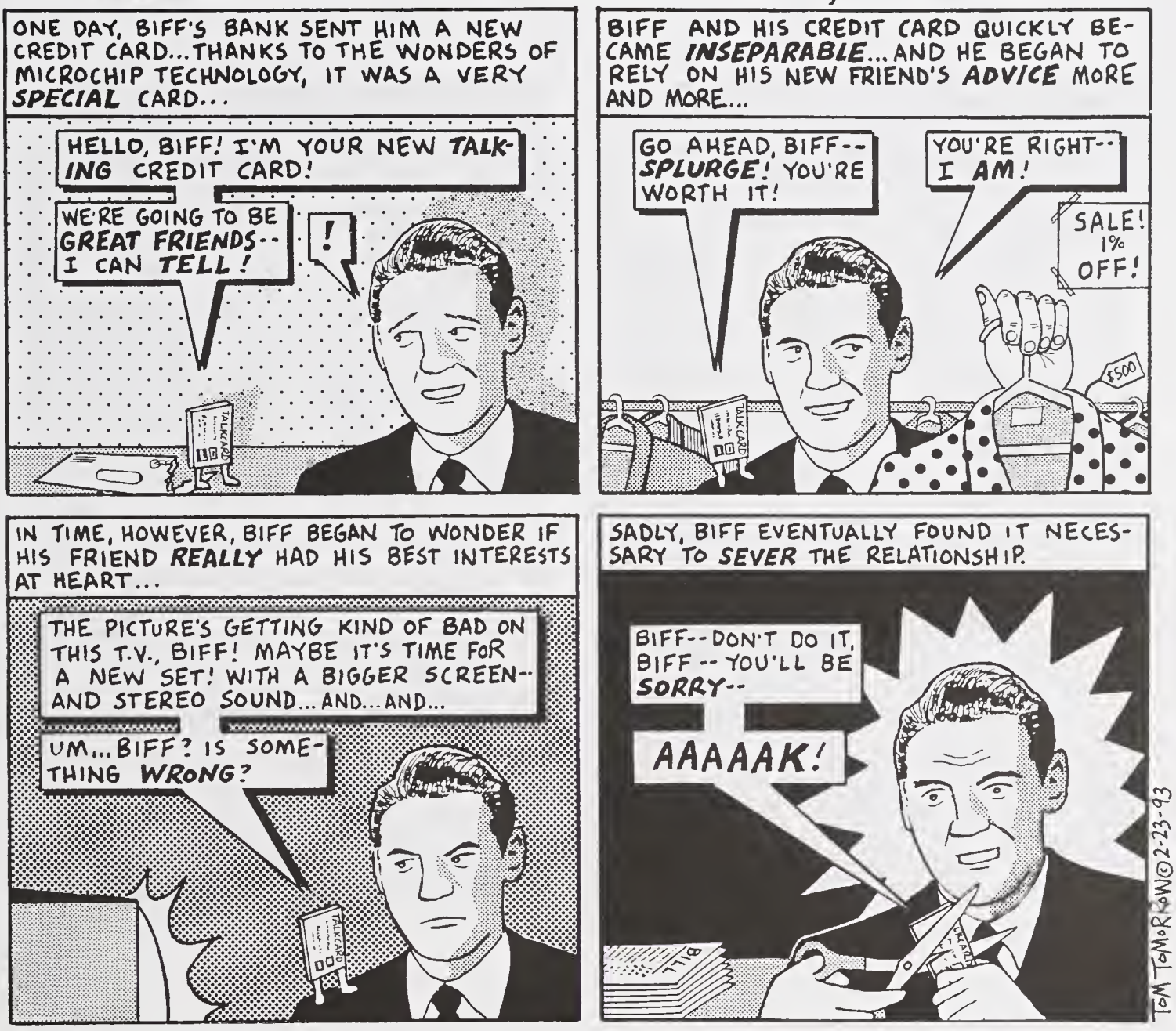
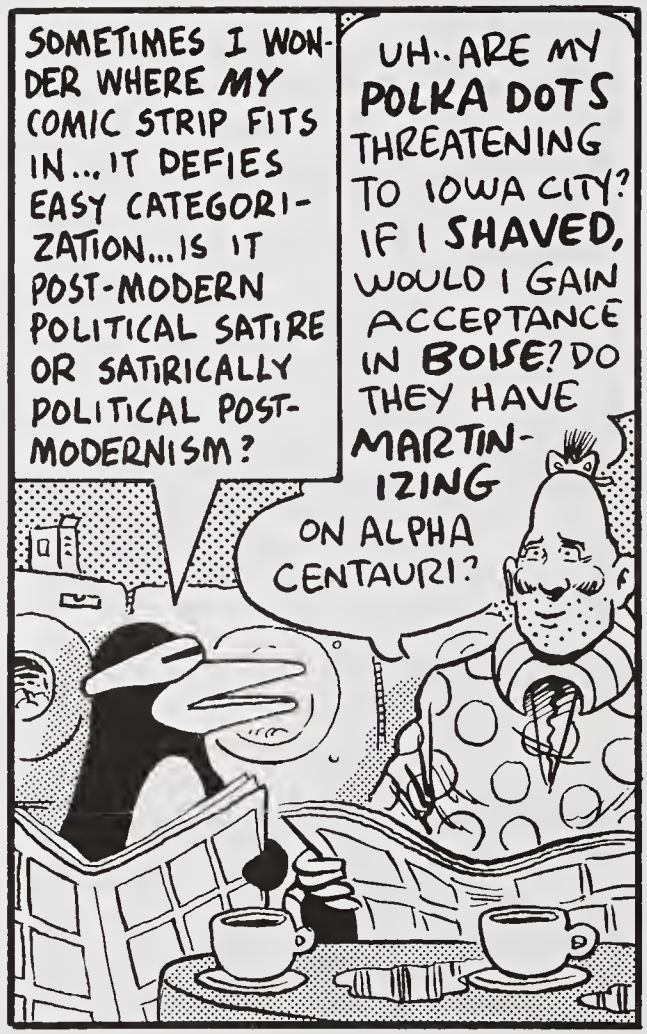
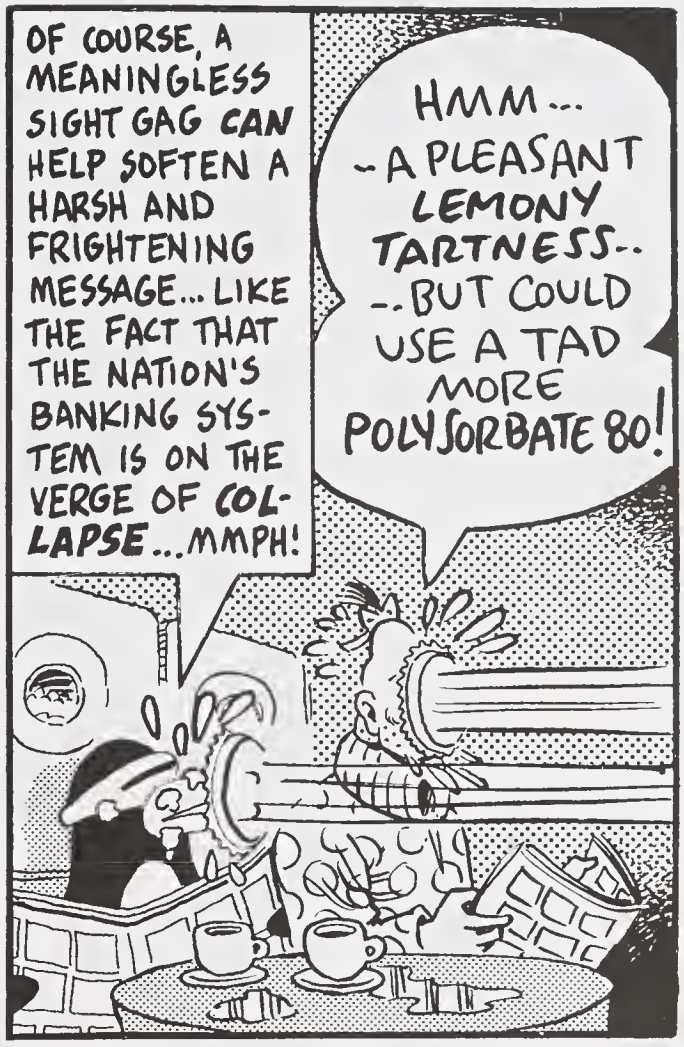


SUNDAY MORNING AT THE BRAIN WASH LAUNDROMAT ON FOLSOM STREET---
YOU KNOW, ZIP, MOST OF THESE COMICS AREN'T WORTH THE PAPER THEY'RE PRINTED ON! THEY'RE ALL FORM AND NO CONTENT!
MMM! I LOVE TH' WAY NEWSPRINT SMELLS! DO YOU GET TH' FAMILY CIRCUS? IT'S.. ..JUST.. SO SURREAL!
COMICS
COMICS


SOMETIMES I WONDER WHERE MY COMIC STRIP FITS IN... IT DEFIES EASY CATEGORIZATION... IS IT POST-MODERN POLITICAL SATIRE OR SATIRICALLY POLITICAL POST-MODERNISM?
UH.. ARE MY POLKA DOTS THREATENING TO IOWA CITY? IF I SHAVED, WOULD I GAIN ACCEPTANCE IN BOISE? DO THEY HAVE MARTINIZING ON ALPHA CENTAURI?



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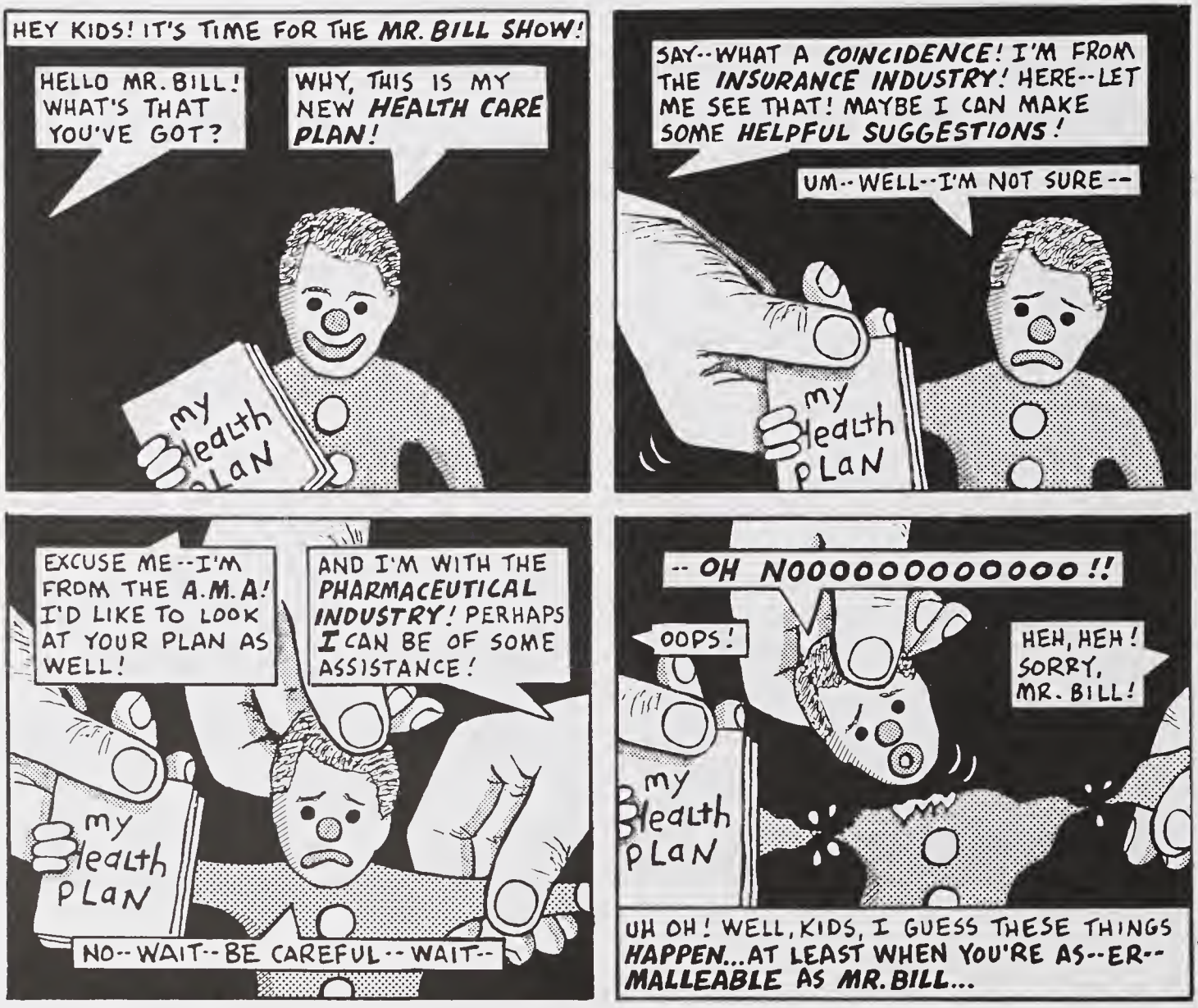

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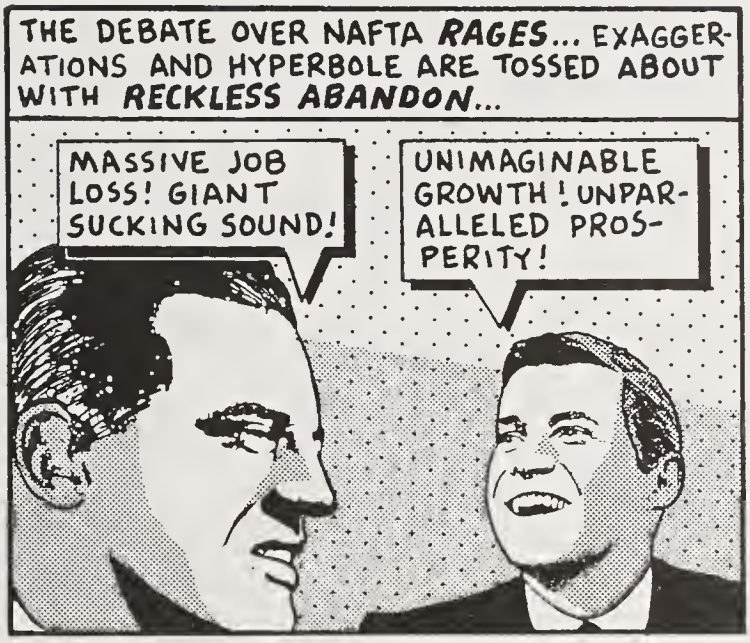
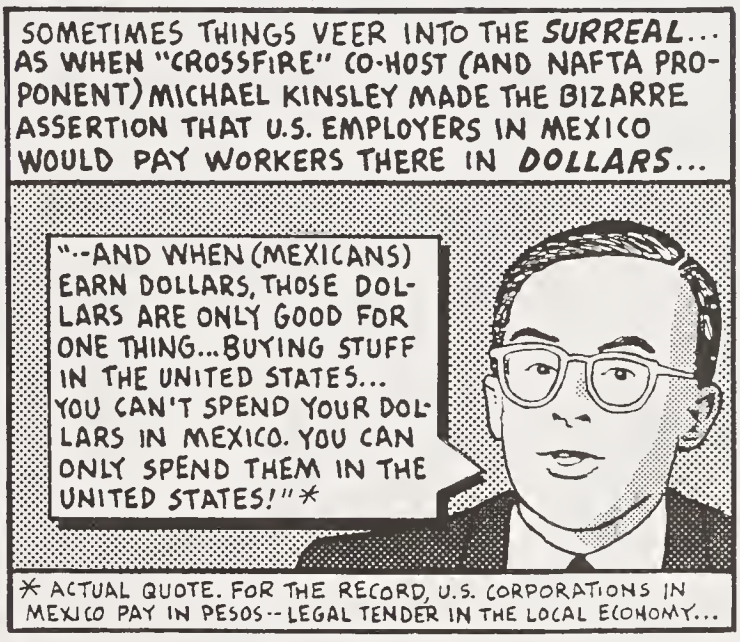
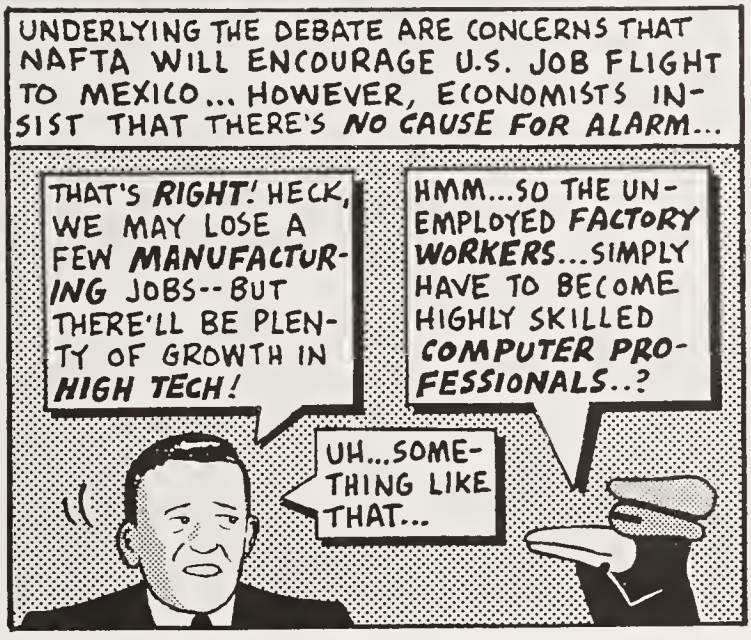
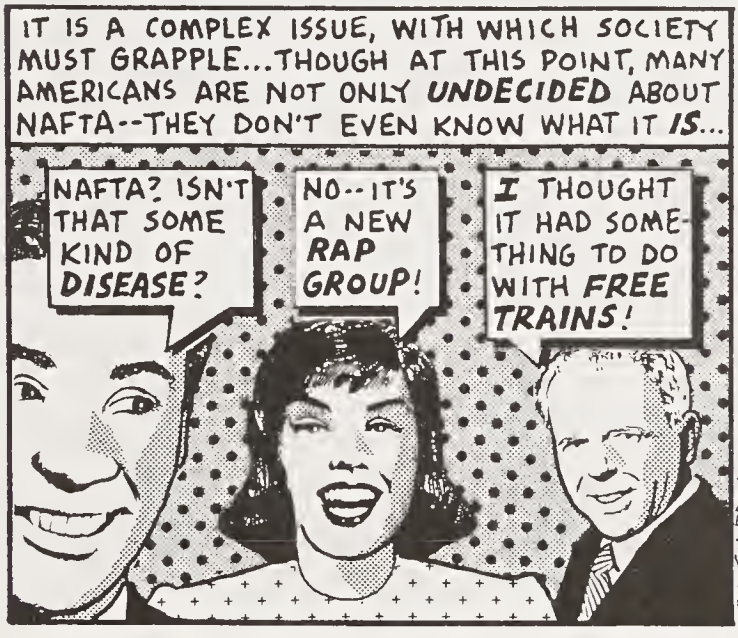


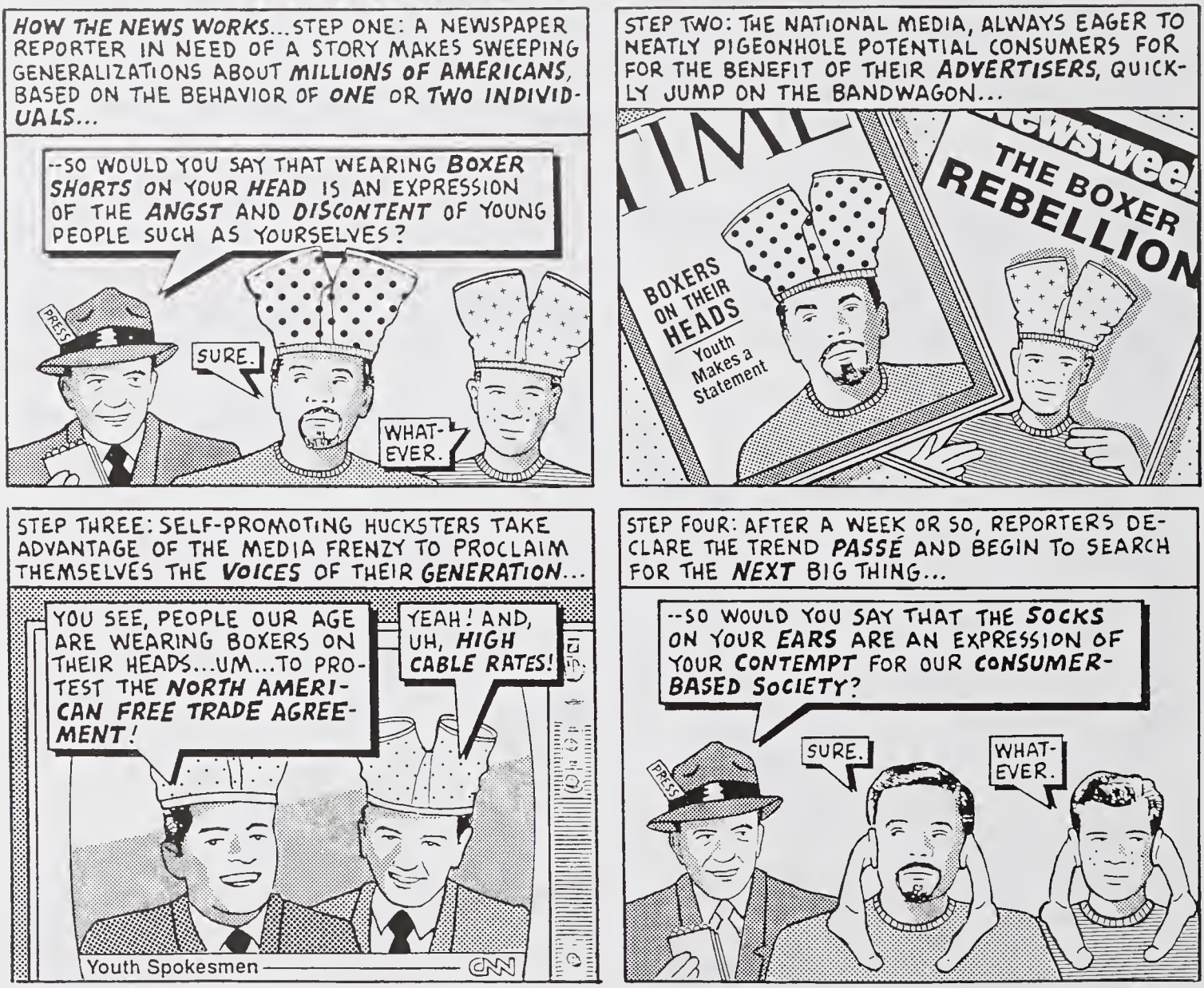






Tune In Tomorrow

BY TOM TOMORROW



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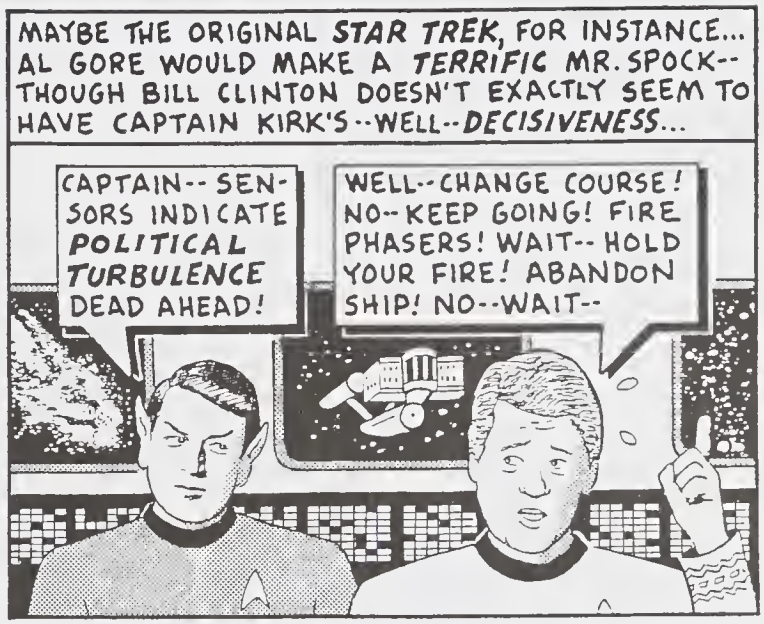
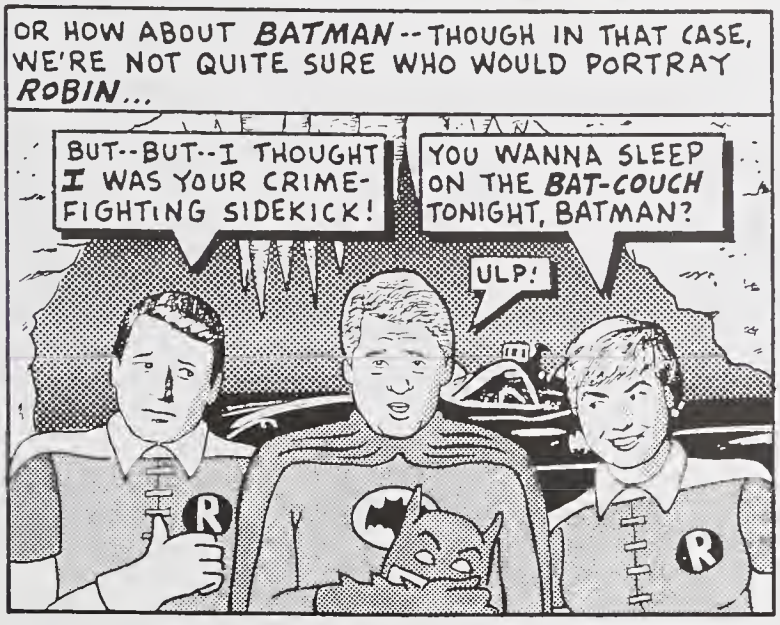




Tune In Tomorrow

BY TOM TOMORROW

THE RESPONSE TO GUN VIOLENCE IN THIS COUNTRY IS OFTEN *SURREAL*...SUCH AS THE N.R.A.'S INSISTENCE, EACH TIME A HEAVILY-ARMED LUNATIC GOES ON A SHOOTING SPREE, THAT GUN CONTROL WOULDN'T HAVE MADE *ANY DIFFERENCE*...

--WHY, HE COULD HAVE JUST AS EASILY KILLED THOSE PEOPLE WITH *KITCHEN IMPLEMENTS!* OR BY HITTING THEM ON THE HEAD WITH *ROCKS!*

IT JUST WOULD HAVE TAKEN A LITTLE *LONGER*...

I ♥ GUNS

...OR THE PROPOSAL OF AN OREGON LEGISLATOR THAT EVERY OREGONIAN BE *LEGALLY REQUIRED* TO OWN A FIREARM--TO MAKE THAT STATE "TOO DANGEROUS FOR CRIMINALS..."

HOWDY, MRS. CLARK! WHAT CAN I GET FOR YOU TODAY?

WELL, FRED...I NEED A STICK OF BUTTER...A BOX OF SUGAR...AND *FIFTY ROUNDS* OF AMMO!

...OR EVEN *JANET RENO'S* OUTBURST A FEW MONTHS BACK, BLAMING THE EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE IN AMERICA ON *TELEVISION BROADCASTERS*... WARNING THEM TO CLEAN UP THEIR PROGRAMMING OR FACE *GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION*...

BEAVIS AND *BUTT-HEAD*--COME OUT WITH YOUR *HANDS UP*--OR WE'RE COMING *IN!*

MTV

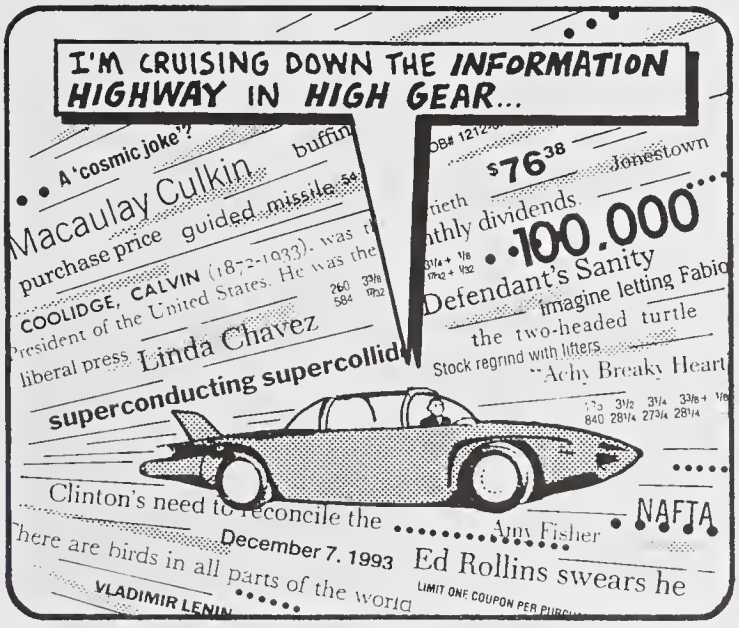
...IF ONLY THINGS *WERE* AS SIMPLE AS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SEEMS TO BELIEVE...HECK, WE'D BE ABLE TO ELIMINATE *GUNS*--AND ALL OF SOCIETY'S *OTHER* ILLS--WITH A FEW SIMPLE *F.C.C. REGULATIONS*...

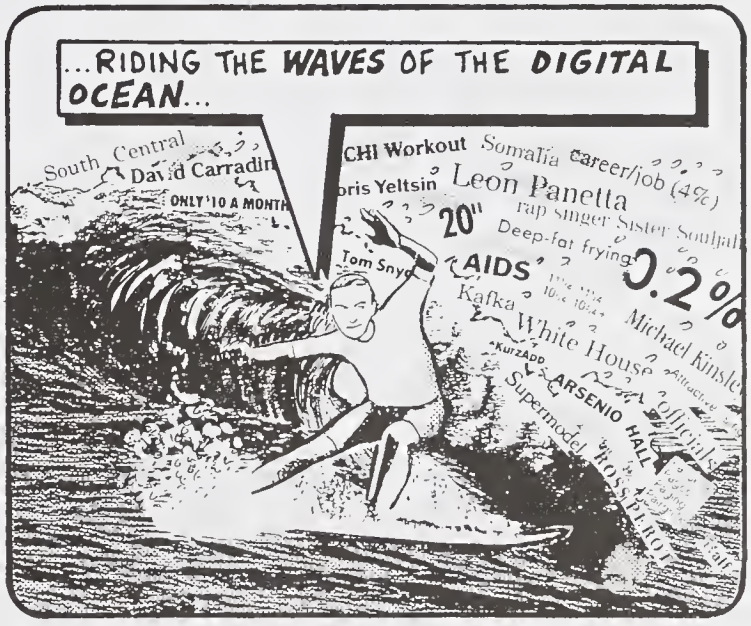
BOY, LIFE HAS SURE BEEN *GREAT* SINCE WE VANQUISHED *CRIME, POVERTY* AND *DISEASE!*

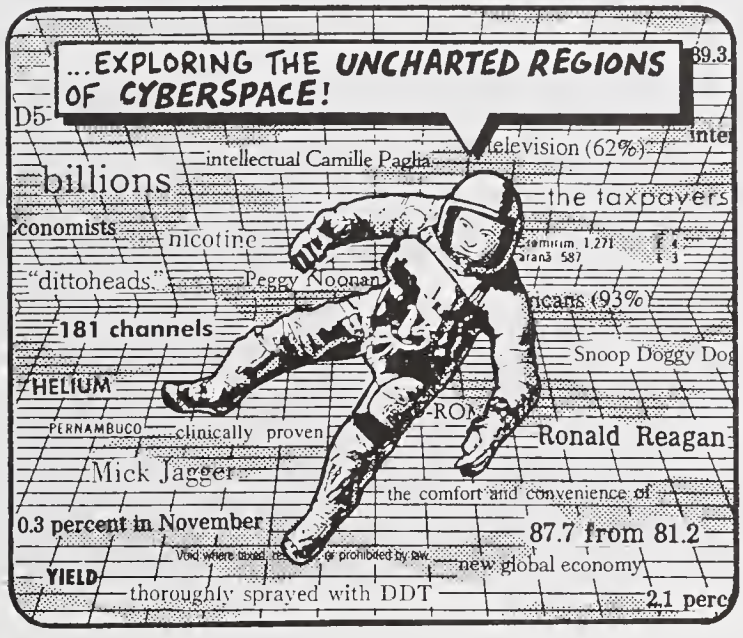
AND JUST THINK--ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS BAR FICTIONAL *PORTRAYALS* OF THOSE TOPICS FROM *TV!*

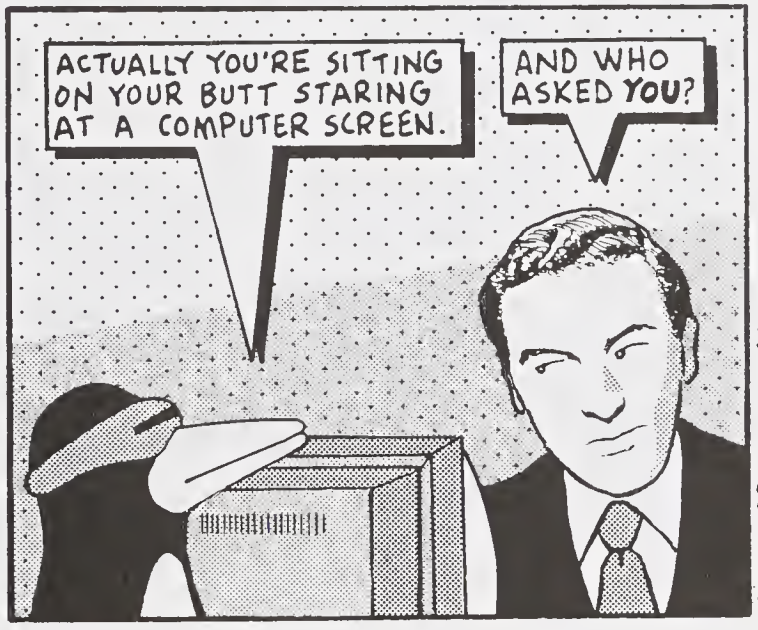
SO YOU WANNA WATCH *OZZIE AND HARRIET*--OR *FATHER KNOWS BEST?*

THIS MODERN WORLD by TOM TOMORROW









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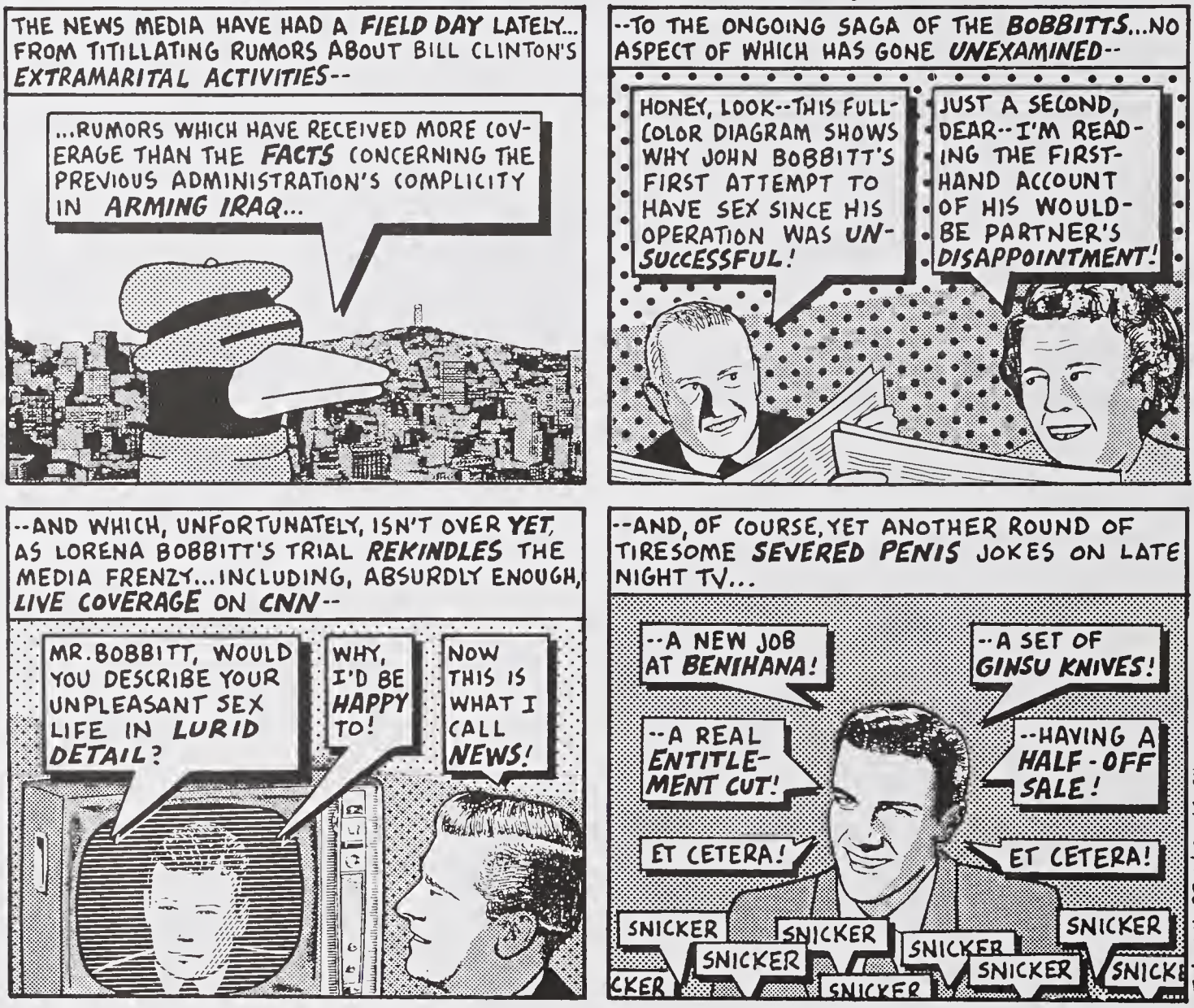

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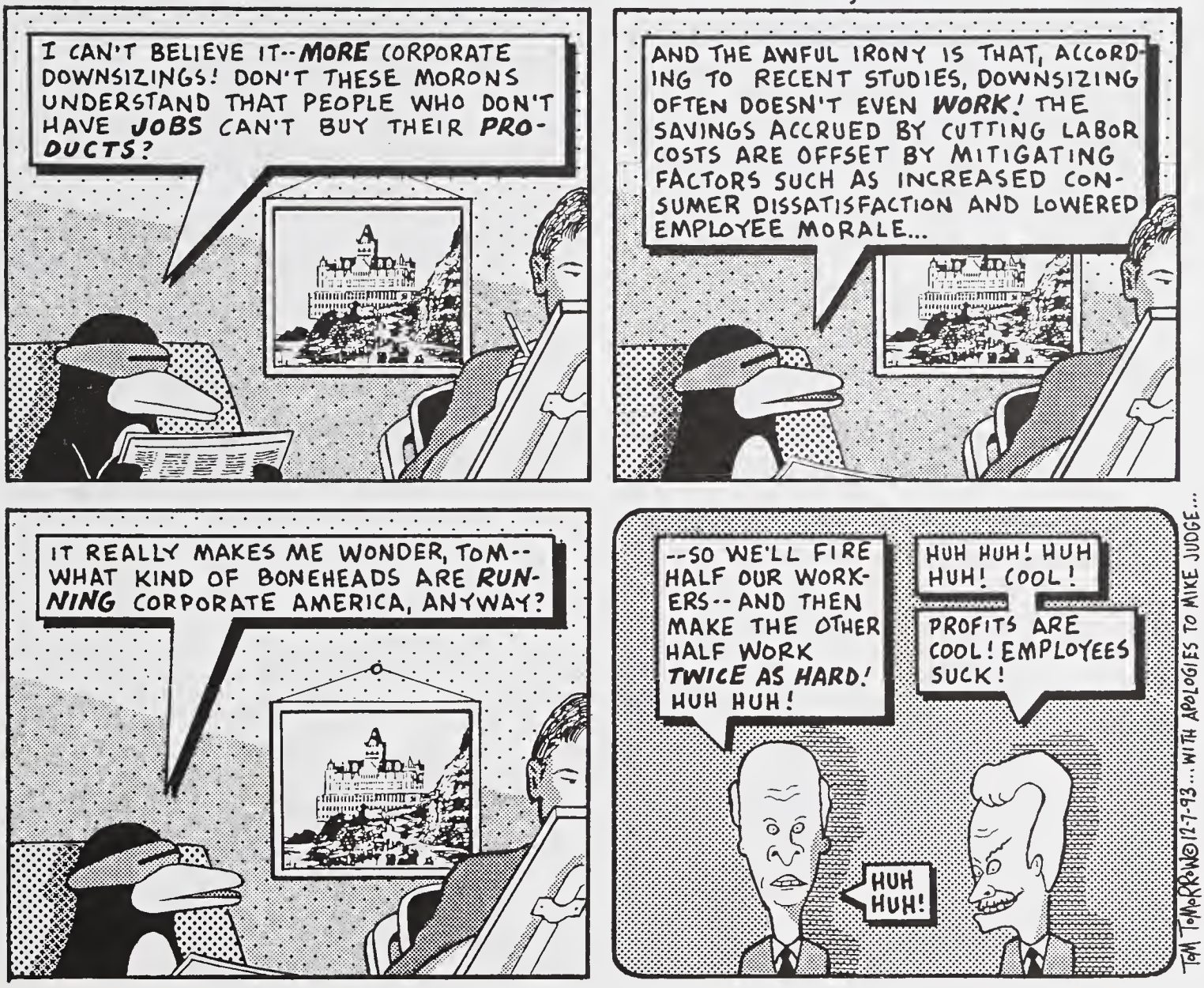

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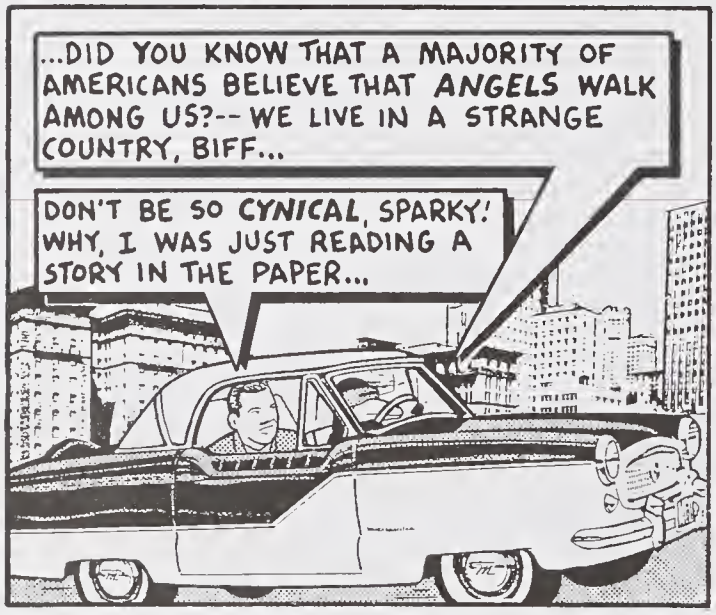

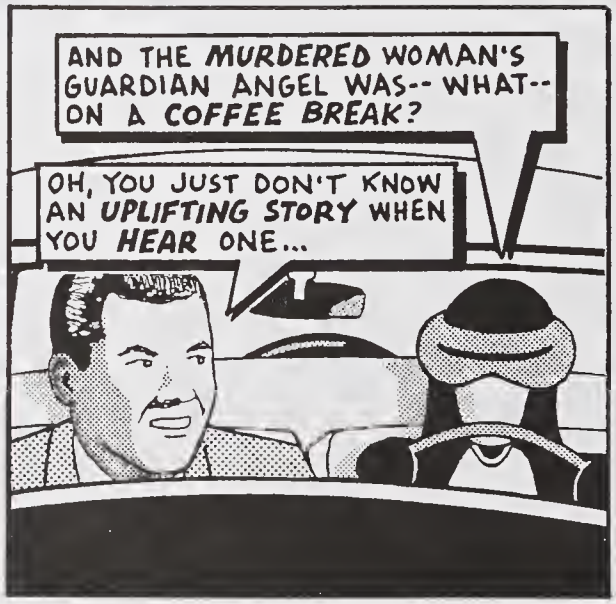

HEY! IT'S CONTEST TIME! SEND US A DRAWING OF SPARKY--AS A HISTORICAL FIGURE--OR IN THE STYLE OF YOUR FAVORITE ARTIST--OR WHATEVER YOU WANT! THE MOST CREATIVE AND ORIGINAL ENTRIES WILL BE FEATURED ON THE INSIDE COVER OF OUR NEXT BOOK! (WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A COPY.) ENTRIES MUST BE BLACK AND WHITE; DEADLINE IS FEB. 28. MAIL TO SPARKY CONTEST, P.O.B. 170515, SF, CA, 94117.

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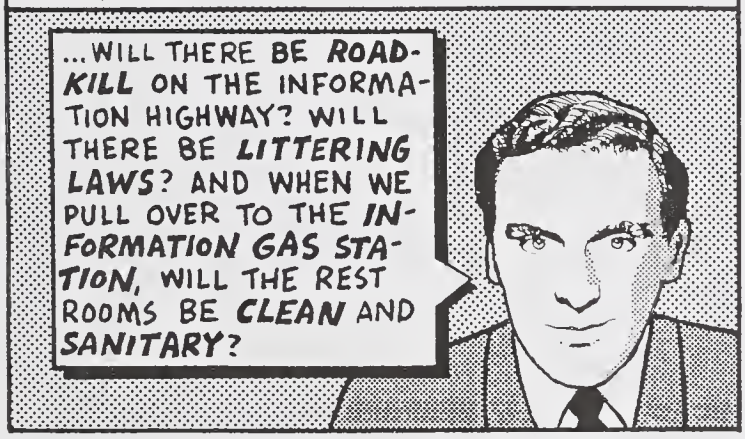
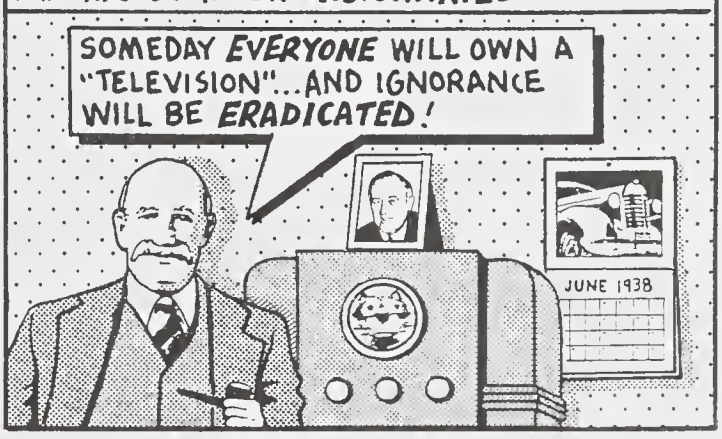
SO FAR, THE DISCUSSION OF THE FORTHCOMING "INFORMATION HIGHWAY" HAS NOT STRAYED MUCH BEYOND THE PAINFULLY OVER-EXTENDED METAPHORS OF BUSINESS WRITERS AND COMMENTATORS...



THE HYPE HAS BEEN EAGERLY EMBRACED BY THAT SEGMENT OF THE POPULATION WHICH REFUSES TO ADMIT THAT NEW TECHNOLOGIES CAN BE ANYTHING BUT BENEFICIAL...OF COURSE, EVERY ERA HAS SUCH--ER--VISIONARIES--



--AND OURS IS NO DIFFERENT...WITH A HIGHLY VOCAL MINORITY OF GULLIBLE TECHNOPHILES WHO SINCERELY SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT THE "INFORMATION HIGHWAY" WILL EMPOWER US ALL...

ALL OF WHICH IS NOT TO DENY THAT THINGS WILL CHANGE...A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL BE SPENDING A LOT MORE TIME ON THEIR COUCHES, FOR ONE THING...

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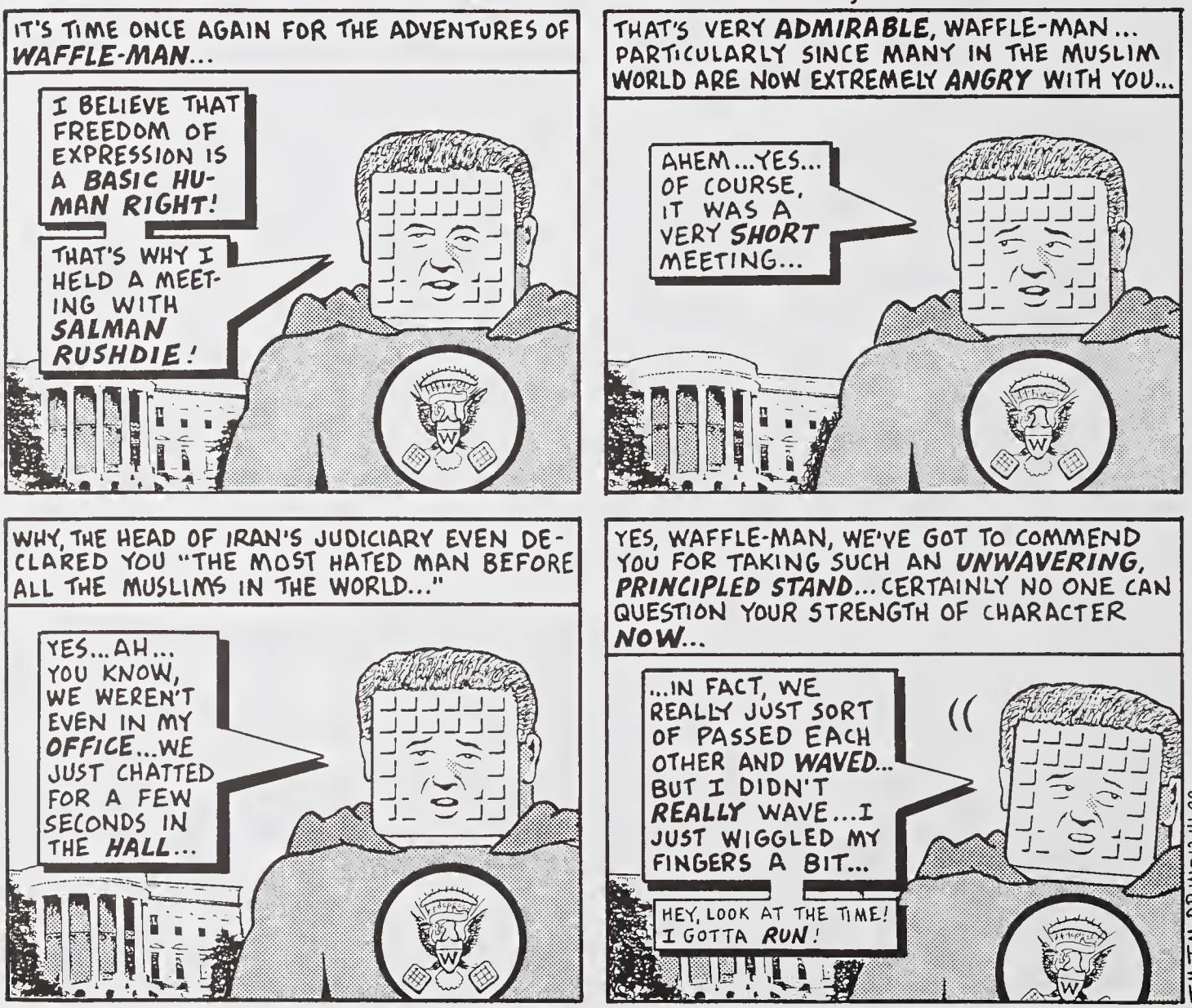

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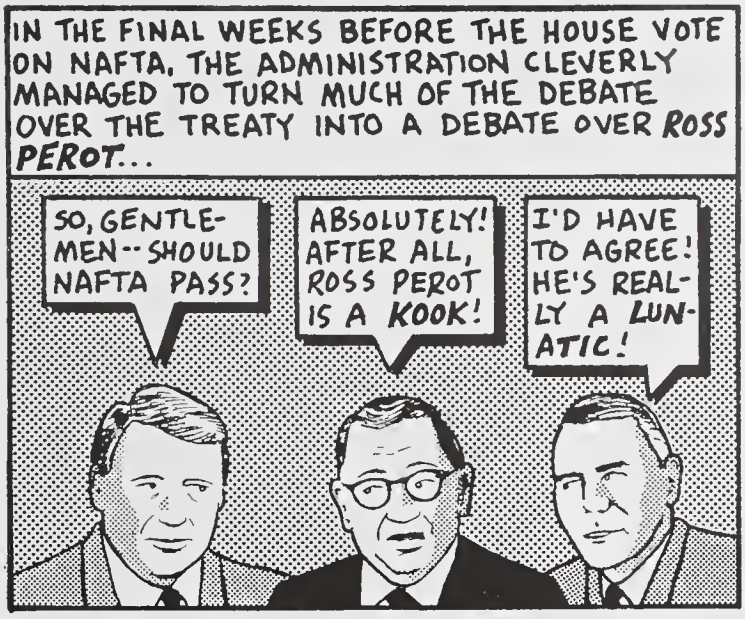

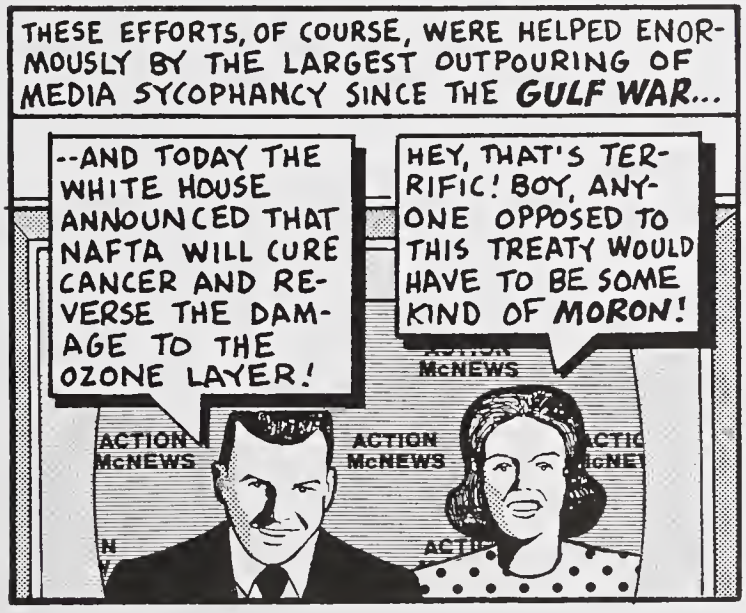

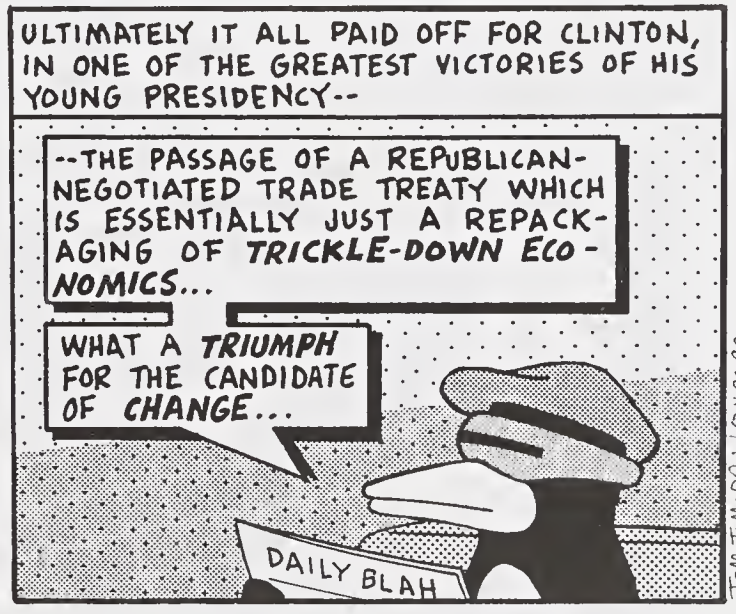

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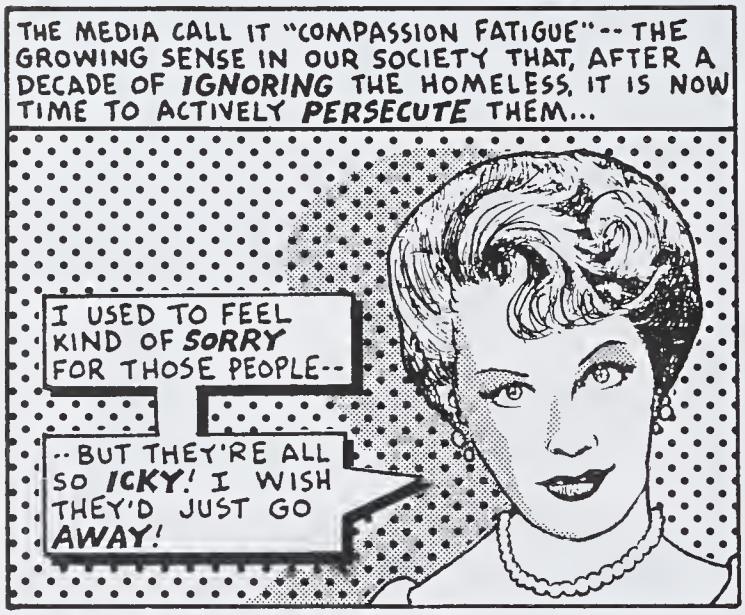

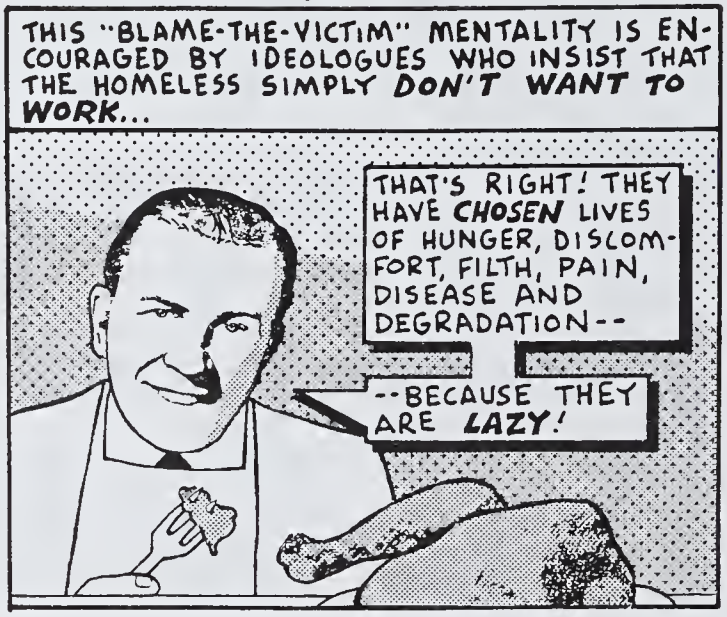

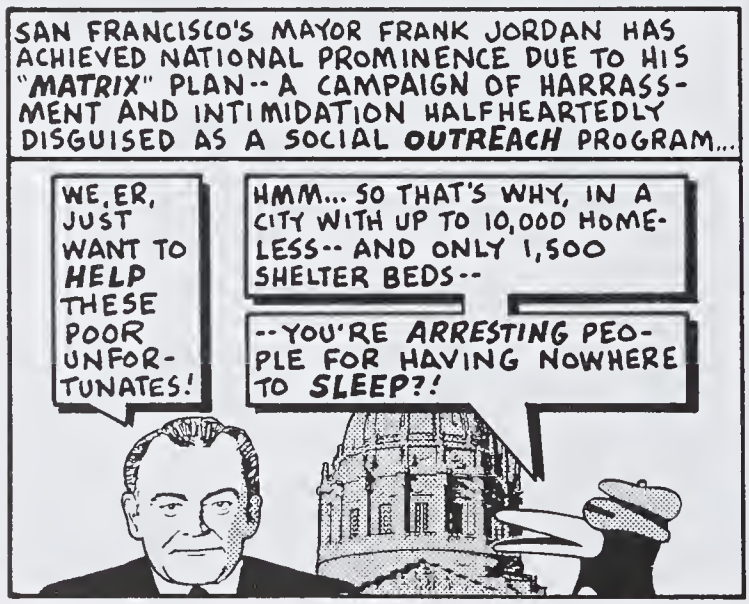

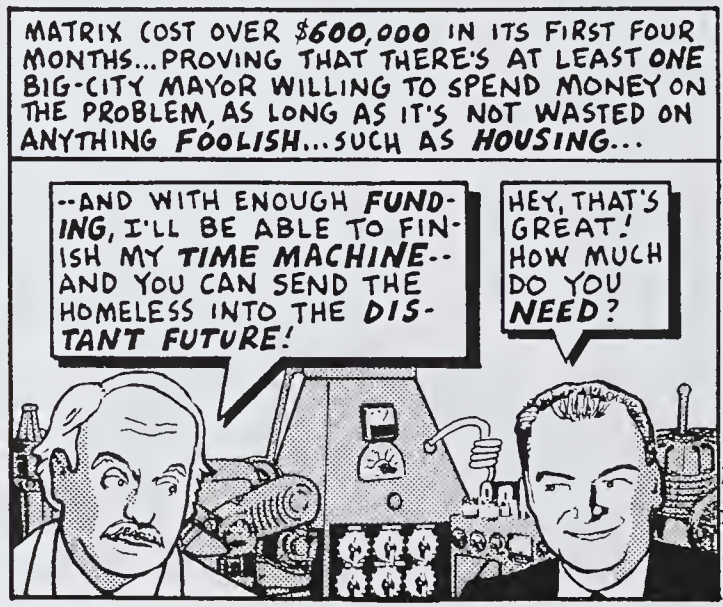

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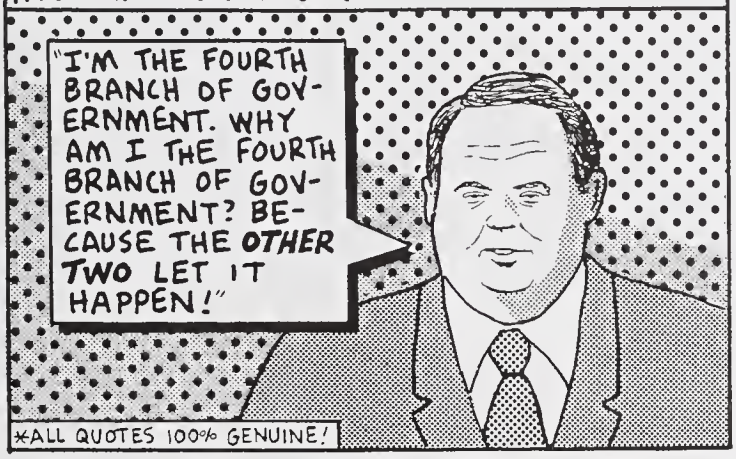
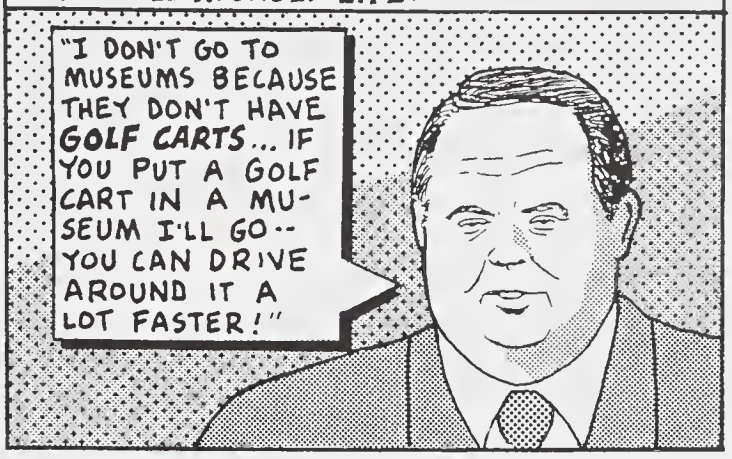
TO BALANCE THIS CARTOON'S PREVIOUS CRITICISMS, WE'RE LETTING ***RUSH LIMBAUGH*** SPEAK FOR ***HIMSELF*** THIS WEEK*... FOR INSTANCE, ON THE SUBJECT OF HIS OWN ***ENORMOUS INFLUENCE***, RUSH HAS ***THIS*** TO SAY:

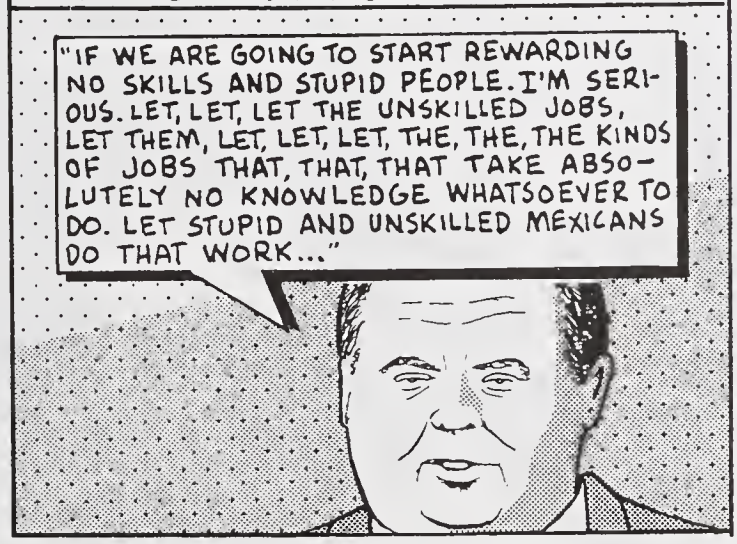


*ALL QUOTES 100% GENUINE!

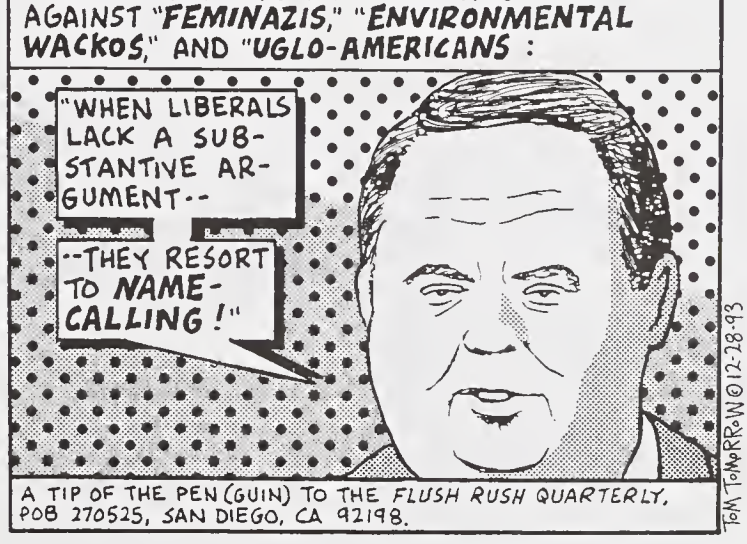
RUSH RECENTLY VISITED NEW YORK'S MUSEUM OF MODERN ART FOR THE FIRST TIME (FOR A SOCIAL FUNCTION)--AND LATER HAD THIS THOUGHT ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF ***ART*** AND ***CULTURE*** TO A ***WELL-ROUNDED LIFE***:



DURING THE ***NAFTA*** BATTLE, RUSH WEIGHED IN WITH ***THIS*** WELL-REASONED ARGUMENT...



FINALLY, LET'S CLOSE WITH SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT FROM THE MAN WHO REGULARLY RAILS AGAINST "***FEMINAZIS***," "***ENVIRONMENTAL WACKOS***," AND "***UGLO-AMERICANS***":



A TIP OF THE PEN (GUIN) TO THE *FLUSH RUSH QUARTERLY*, POB 270525, SAN DIEGO, CA 92198.

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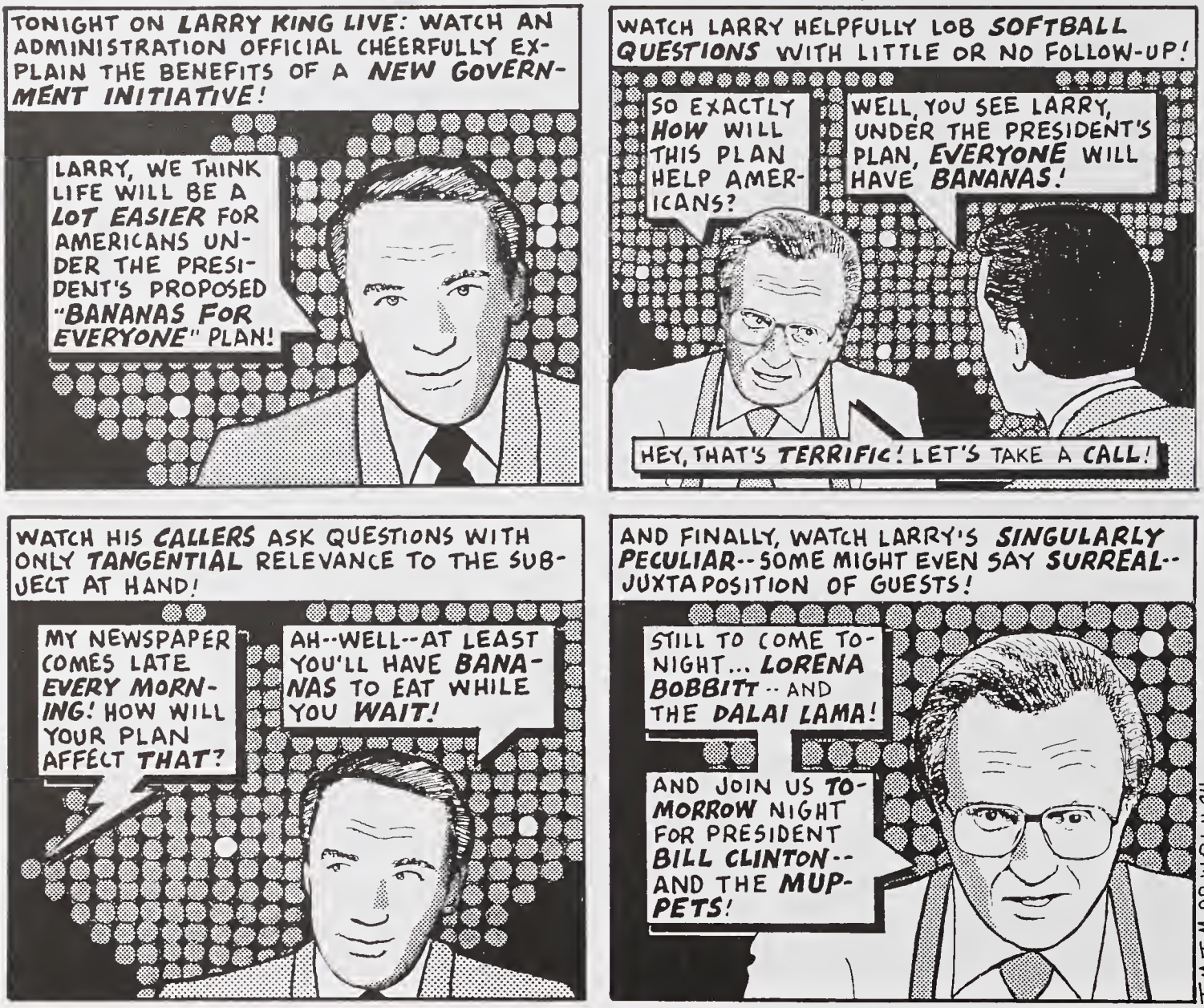

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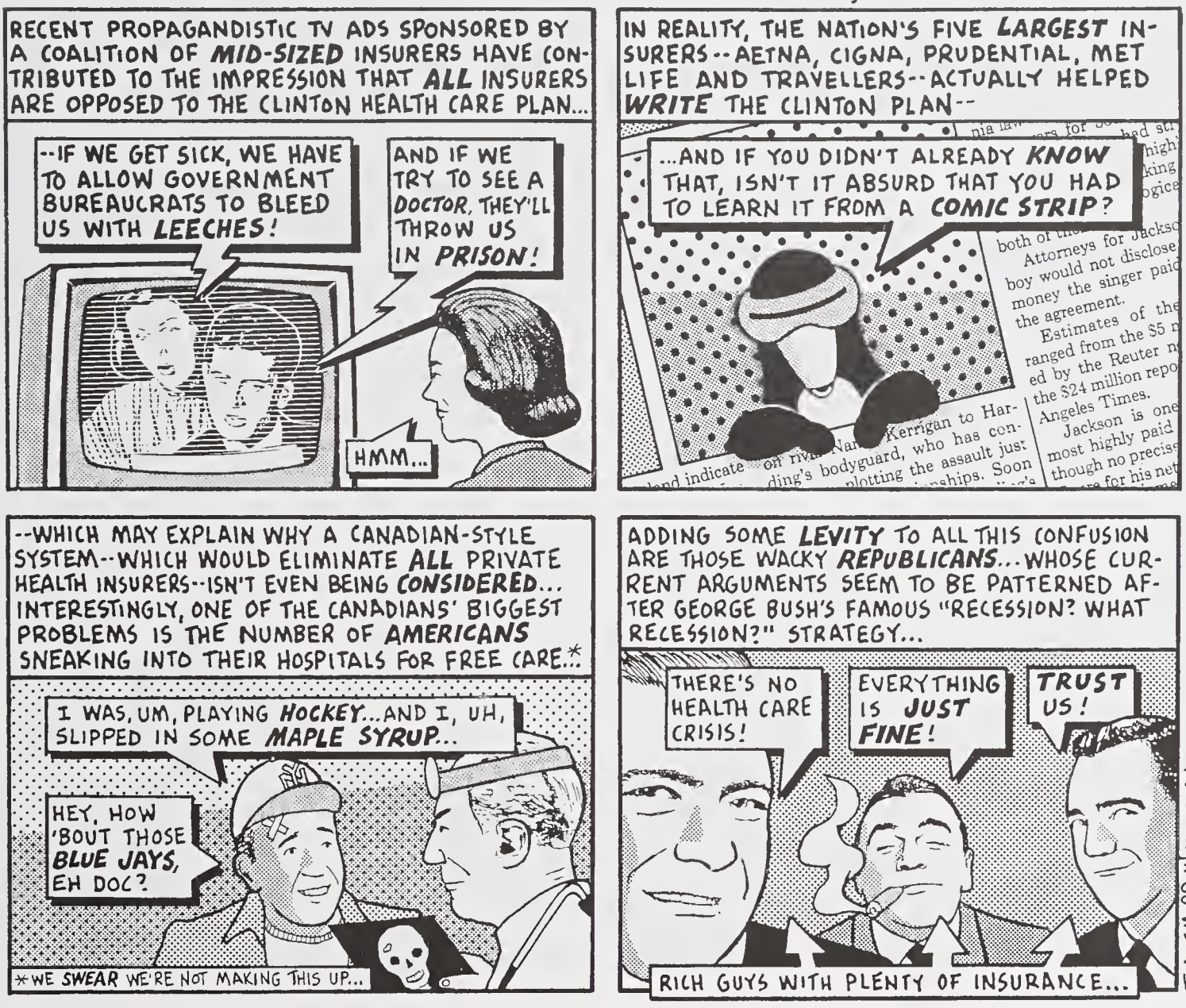

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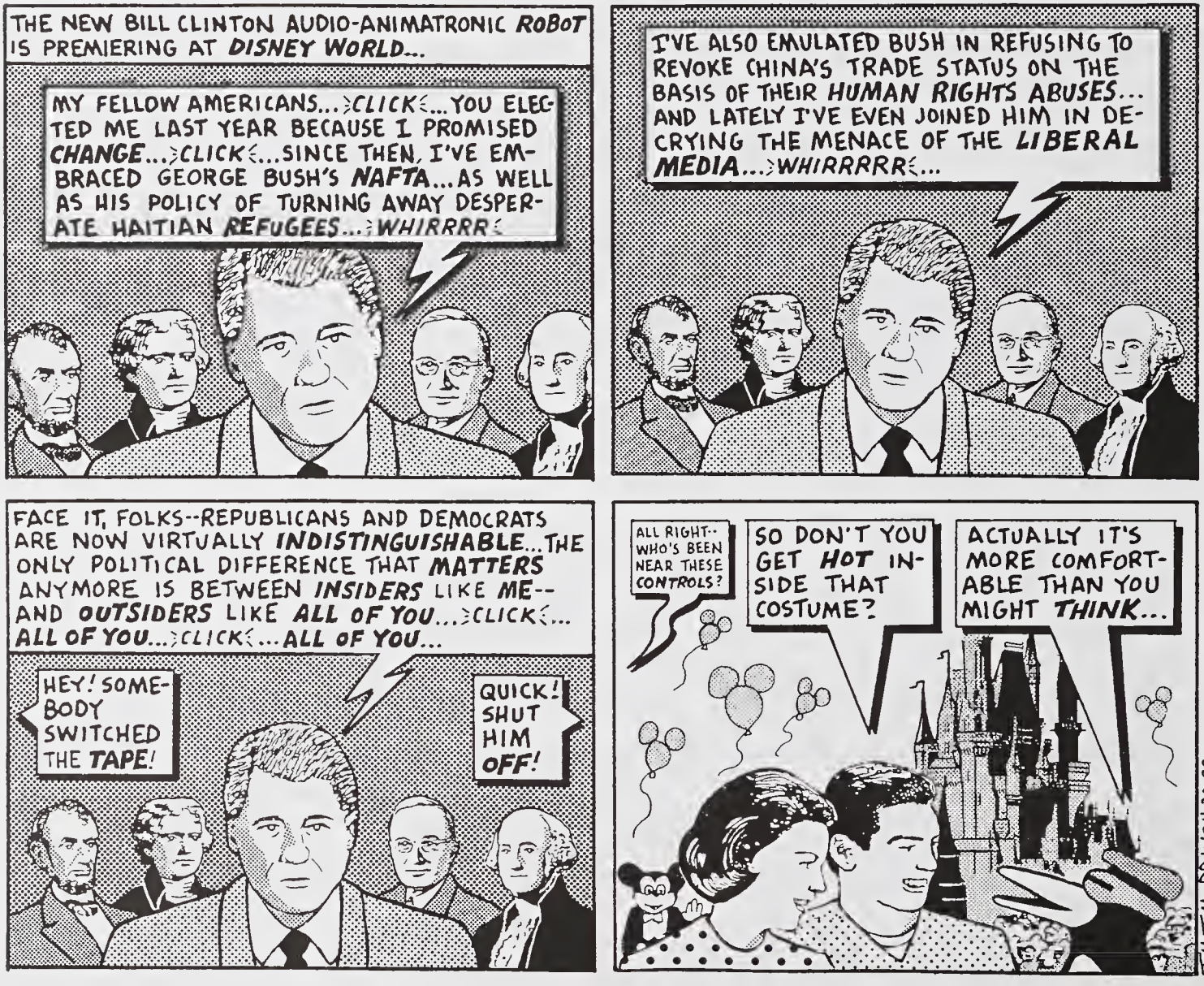

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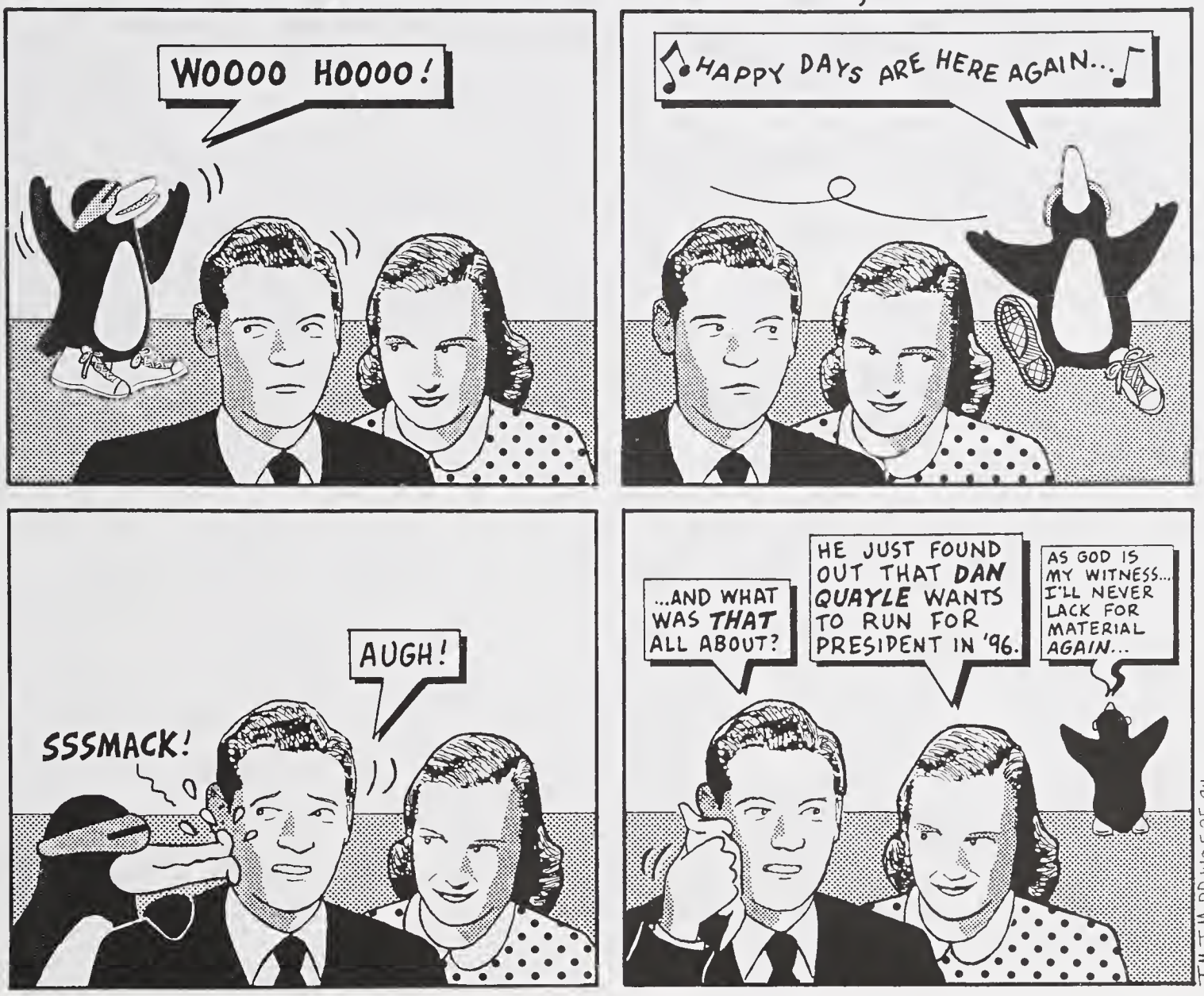

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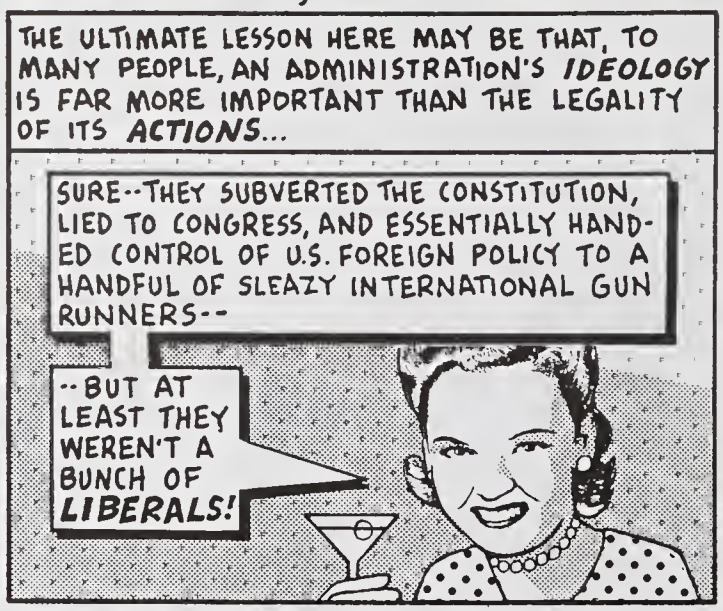

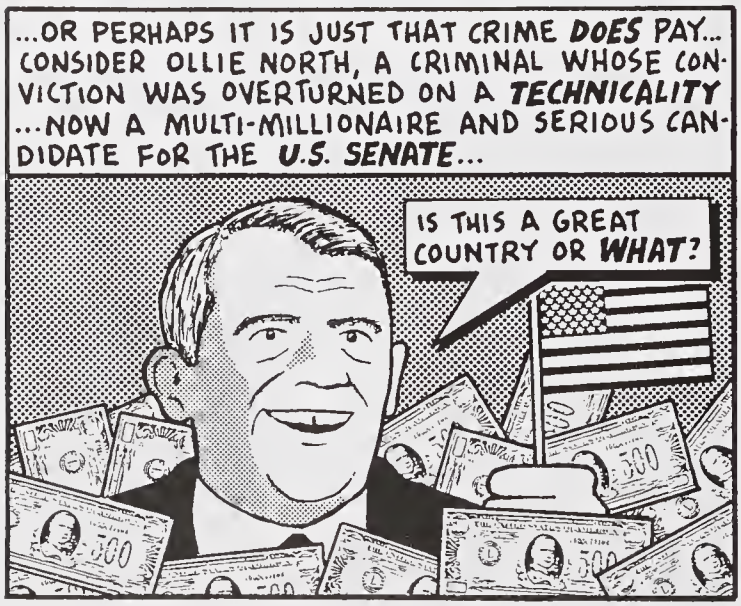

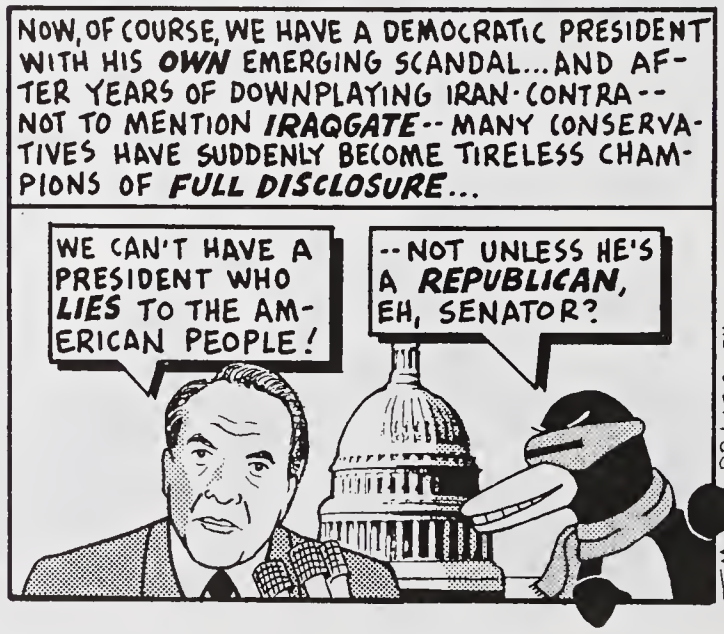

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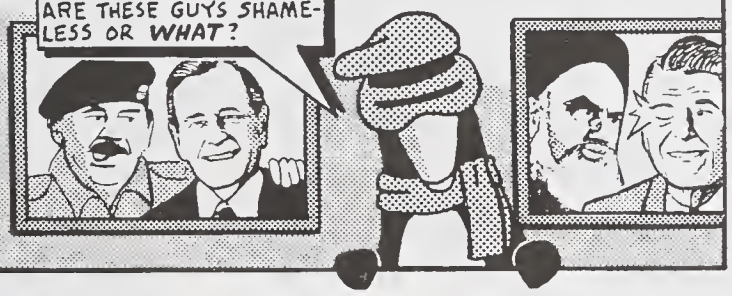
WATERGATE, IRAN-CONTRA AND IRAQGATE WERE ALL ABUSES OF EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY...ATTEMPTS BY REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS TO SUBVERT THE ***CONSTITUTION*** AND CIRCUMVENT THE ***DEMOCRATIC PROCESS***...

IRONICALLY, SOME REPUBLICANS ARE NOW HINTING THAT ***BILL CLINTON*** MIGHT FACE IMPEACHMENT OVER ***WHITEWATER***...

ARE THESE GUYS SHAMELESS OR ***WHAT***?

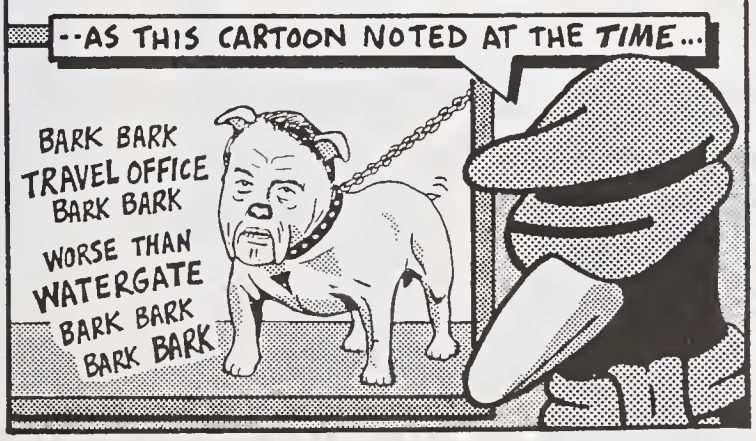


HAD CLINTON NOT BECOME PRESIDENT, WHITEWATER WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN A ***FOOTNOTE*** TO THE S&L DEBACLE--WHICH, THOUGH BIPARTISAN, WAS INSTIGATED BY THE ***REPUBLICAN*** MANIA FOR ***DEREGULATION***...

JUST ANOTHER WONDERFUL EXAMPLE OF WHAT THE FREE MARKET CAN ***DO*** WHEN RELIEVED OF THE BURDEN OF ***GOVERNMENTAL OVERSIGHT***...

GIVEN THEIR HISTORY, IT'S HARD TO TAKE THE REPUBLICANS TOO SERIOUSLY ON WHITEWATER--PARTICULARLY ***BOB DOLE***, WHO REVEALED HIS OVER-EXCITABILITY DURING THE WHITE HOUSE ***TRAVEL OFFICE*** BROUHAHA...

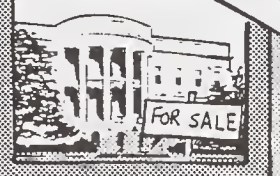
--AS THIS CARTOON NOTED AT THE ***TIME***...



STILL--IT ***IS*** APPARENT FROM THE CLUMSY COVER-UP ATTEMPTS--AND THE TROUBLING DEATH OF VINCE FOSTER--THAT ***SOMETHING*** IS GOING ON HERE...

--YOU MEAN THE MONEY-DRIVEN AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM HAS LED TO THE ELECTION OF YET ANOTHER ***TAINTED POLITICIAN***?

I'M ***SHOCKED***, I TELL YOU... ***SHOCKED***...



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

For reasons known only to himself, Tom Tomorrow conducts his daily business under the rather unlikely pseudonym "Dan Perkins." His cartoons appear regularly in approximately eighty papers across the country, and have been featured in *Spin* magazine, the *Utne Reader*, the *Nation*, the *Village Voice*, *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and many other publications. He has been a guest on such national radio programs as "Fresh Air" and "Talk of the Nation," and was once described as "the most important cartoonist in America" by some drunk guy at a party.

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–The Comics Journal

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